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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

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28 February 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 28 February 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN (15 February 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 15 February 2011. The following items were discussed:

Economic Governance

The Council held a first discussion on a package of legislative measures intended to strengthen economic governance in the EU, particularly in the euro area, in order to address the challenges posed by the sovereign debt crisis, and prevent the emergence of similar problems in the future, while fully respecting the provisions in the UK's protocol to the treaty. In line with the deadlines set by the European Council, the presidency's intention is to reach agreement on a general approach on all six proposals at the 15 March ECOFIN.

Savings Taxation Directive and Anti-fraud Agreements with Third Countries

The Council held an orientation debate on proposals to strengthen the provisions of the savings directive on the taxation of savings interest, and on anti-fraud and tax information exchange agreements with Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland. The Government support the presidency's aim to maintain momentum on these proposals, so as to enable the Council to make progress as soon as possible.

Preparation of the European Council (24-25 March 2011)

a) Macro-economic and fiscal guidance

> The Council adopted conclusions on macro-economic and fiscal guidance for the EU, under the new European semester. The Government believe the reform priorities set out in the conclusions are important and necessary steps to help promote economic growth in the EU and its member states.

b) Appointment of an Executive Board Member of the European Central Bank

> Ministers adopted a recommendation on the nomination of Peter Praet (Belgium) as an executive board member of the European Central Bank to succeed Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell, whose term of office expires on 31 May.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

The Council took note of a communication from the Commission assessing action taken by Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland and Denmark in order to bring their government deficits below 3% of GDP. It was agreed that these member states had taken effective action regarding their deficits, and that no further steps under the EU's excessive deficit procedure were required at present.

Preparation of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Governors (18-19 February)

The Council endorsed EU terms of reference in preparation for a meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors to be held in Paris on 18-19 February. Discussions are expected to focus on the global economy and the G20 framework for growth, the reform of the international monetary system, commodities, financial regulation, and other issues such as development.

Discharge procedure in respect of the implementation of the 2009 EU budget

The Council adopted a recommendation to the European Parliament on the discharge to be given to the Commission for implementation of the EU's general budget for 2009. The Dutch, Swedish and UK delegations, withheld their consent on the discharge. This marks a step change in the UK Government's approach to financial management in the EU; the Government consider it unacceptable that the European Court of Auditors has not been able to grant a positive statement of assurance on the EU budget as a whole for the 16th year in succession.

Together with the Netherlands and Sweden, the Government also submitted a joint declaration, setting out concrete actions that would improve financial management (see attached).

Budget guidelines for 2012

The Council adopted conclusions setting out their priorities for the EU's general budget for 2012, which will serve as the basis for negotiation with the European Parliament and the Commission later this year. The conclusions emphasise the need to take into account economic and budgetary constraints at the national level. The Government believe that the efforts made to curb the EU budget's growth in 2011 must be stepped up for the 2012 budget.

JOINT DECLARATION SIGNED BY THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

With reference to:

> The European Court of Auditors' annual report on implementation of the 2009 EU budget;
>
> Discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2009;
>
> Draft Council recommendation 5891/11 FIN 47 PE-L 14, + ADD 1, + ADD 2;
>
> The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom are concerned that:
>
> For the 16th year in succession, the European Court of Auditors has been unable to grant a positive unqualified statement of assurance on the EU budget as a whole;
>
> The slow pace of reforms to the financial management of EU funds is detrimental to the credibility of the EU budget as a whole.
>
> The Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom highlight that independent EU-level audit is a crucial function and we therefore strongly support the work of the European Court of Auditors;
>
> The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom agree with the European Court of Auditors that improving the quality of spending should be a high priority in order to attain significantly better results in the annual report on the 2010 budget.
>
> The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom want to see concrete steps towards achieving the following specific objectives before the Council debates discharge of the 2010 budget:
>
> Member states are responsible for implementing the majority of funds from the EU budget in co-operation with the Commission. Member states are responsible for conducting checks and for putting in place an effective and efficient control system. As part of a closer dialogue with member states, the Commission is invited to make proposals and to strengthen member state responsibility. Member states should account for the administration of EU funds at national level, including the proper functioning of internal control systems;

> For reasons of transparency and in order to incentivise sound financial management, member states' annual summaries should be made publicly available. At the same time member states should be obliged to provide analysis of financial management data as an integral part of the annual summaries;
>
> In support of a risk-based approach to auditing, a more structured dialogue between the Court of Auditors, the Commission and member states is necessary. The Commission should bring forward proposals to enable a stronger focus on the audit of larger projects and institutions which have a proven track record of risk.
>
> The forthcoming negotiations of the financial regulation provide an opportunity to take forward these proposals.

Counter-Terrorist Asset-Freezing Regime

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government are committed to reporting quarterly on the operation of the UK's terrorist asset-freezing regime. We believe this is essential to ensure transparency and accountability of the regime. The Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 has enshrined in law the commitment to report quarterly to Parliament on the operation of the regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

This report covers the period October to December 2010[1]. It is the last to cover the operation of the regime under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009, which was repealed on 17 December when the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act came into force and it also covers the first two weeks of the operation of the new Act.

The new Act strengthens civil liberties safeguards and makes the new regime fairer, more proportionate and more transparent.

A copy of the Act can be found on the HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_sanctions_terrorist.htm

This report also covers the operation of the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

As of 31 December 2010, a total of just under £280,000[2] of funds relating to terrorism were frozen in the UK. This covers funds frozen under the UK's domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373, and also funds frozen under the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime, mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1267.

(1) UK's Domestic Terrorist Asset-freezing Regime

As of 31 December 2010, a total of 91 accounts containing just under £140,000 were frozen in the UK under the domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime mandated by UNSCR 1373.

Operation of the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 (prior to 17 December 2010)

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter October to December 2010, the Treasury gave no new directions under the 2009 order.

Reviews under the 2009 Order

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review and completed 38 reviews in this quarter. As a result of these 38 reviews, six persons had their designations revoked.

Licensing

Maintaining an effective licensing system is important to ensure the overall proportionality and fairness of the asset-freezing regime, whether the individuals concerned are subject to an asset freeze in accordance with a UN or EU listing, or domestic terrorism legislation. A licensing framework is put in place for each person on a case-by-case basis. The key objective of the licensing system is to strike an appropriate balance between minimising the risk of diversion of funds to terrorism and meeting the human rights of affected persons and their families. Licences contain appropriate controls to protect against the risk of the diversion of funds for terrorist finance.

Four licences were issued this quarter in relation to four persons subject to an asset freeze under the 2009 order.

In addition to issuing licences relating to a specific person, the Treasury may also issue general licences, which apply to all persons designated under a particular regime or regimes. Licences are granted where there is a legitimate need for such transactions to proceed and where they can proceed without giving rise to any risk of terrorist finance.

One general licence was issued this quarter to allow third parties to pay a designated person's legal expenses under both the Act and the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

No licences were varied or revoked this quarter.

Legal Challenges

Two legal challenges against designations made under the 2009 order were ongoing in the last quarter.

Operation of the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (after 17 December 2010)

The Act contains a transitional provision that ensures that all designations and licences made under the 2009 order remain valid as final designations under the Act until 17 March 2011. All UK asset freezes are therefore currently under review to consider whether they should be renewed under the new Act. The review process will be completed by 17 March 2011.

No new designations or licences were made under the powers of the Act between 17 December and the end of the quarter.

The Independent Reviewer

Under the Act the Treasury is required to appoint an independent reviewer to review the operation of the domestic terrorist asset-freezing regime. The independent reviewer will report on the first nine months of the regime and every 12 months thereafter.

The Treasury has decided to appoint David Anderson QC to the role of Independent Reviewer. He has recently been appointed by the Home Office as the independent reviewer of counter-terrorism legislation.

(2) UN al-Qaeda and Taliban Asset-Freezing Regime

The UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime is implemented in the UK through EC Regulation 881/2002. Enforcement measures are provided for in the UK's al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010.

As of 31 December 2010, a total of 112 accounts containing just under £140,000[3] were frozen in the UK under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

Designations

During this quarter, the EU added five people to its list made under EC Regulation 881/2002, implementing the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime established under UNSCR 1267.

Licences

One licence was issued this quarter in relation to one person subject to an asset freeze under the al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

No specific licences were varied or revoked this quarter. The general licence referred to above also applies to the UNSCR 1267 regime.

Proceedings

In the quarter October to December 2010, no proceedings were taken for breaches of the prohibitions of the 2009 order, the Act or the al-Qaeda and Taliban (Asset-Freezing) Regulations.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects the most updated account balances available and includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 12/01/11.

[3] Includes approximately $64,000 of suspected terrorist funds in the UK.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Social Housing

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I am today publishing a paper which sets out the next steps in the Government's reform of the social housing system, in light of the responses we have received to our policy document, "Local decisions; a fairer future for social housing", published in November last year. The paper which I am publishing today also contains a summary of those responses and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

The reforms to social housing which are being taken forward in the Localism Bill will give local authorities far greater freedom and flexibility in the types of tenancies they can grant to social housing tenants; in the way they allocate their social housing; and in how they discharge their main homelessness duty. The reforms will also significantly improve mobility for social tenants. The reforms to tenure will only affect new social tenancies. We will ensure that the security and rights of existing social tenants continue to be protected in law.

I am publishing the response earlier than the usual three-month deadline from the end of consultation as I believe it will be useful to inform debate on the social housing provisions in the Bill.

The response to the consultation was overwhelming. Nearly 700 responses were received from individuals and organisations. There was a very strong response from local authorities and other social landlords who, in the main, welcomed the new freedoms and flexibilities which the Government are giving them.

The Localism Bill will give the Secretary of State the power to issue a direction to the regulator of social housing on a tenancy standard and a direction on mobility. I am taking the opportunity presented through the paper I am publishing today to set out the Government's thinking on what we believe should be contained in both of these directions. I intend to publish a full technical draft of the directions on tenure and mobility later this year, when they will be subject to a full consultation.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The Constitution Committee's eighth report summarised its inquiry into the Bill and I am grateful to the Committee for the careful scrutiny it has given the Bill. Today the Government have responded to the Committee's report by means of a Command Paper which has been laid before both Houses of Parliament.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Development Programme for England

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am today announcing a series of changes I will be making to the operation and delivery of the socio-economic elements of the rural development programme for England 2007-13 (RDPE), which are currently delivered by the regional development agencies.

Future responsibility for delivery of support for farming and forestry competitiveness, diversification of the rural economy and rural quality of life under axes 1 and 3 of the RDPE, and for management of the community-led Leader approach, will transfer from the eight existing RDAs to DEFRA. This will ensure continuity and consistency of delivery for customers, and compliance with the relevant European regulations.

As responsibility transfers to DEFRA, I shall be looking to move as quickly as possible towards a more consistent national approach to delivery of the programme, with a clear focus on the Government's priorities for farming and forestry competitiveness and the needs of rural areas: managed nationally and delivered in a way which provides locally accessible support. So I have decided that we should aim to locate the RDPE teams in their existing towns or cities initially where that is cost-effective. In order to ensure as smooth a transition as possible, I will be introducing changes to the administration of the programme on a staggered basis from 1 July. These will deliver a more consistent national approach and efficiency savings for the taxpayer, including moving away from existing regions as the key governance tier.

We will engage further with stakeholders and customers about changes to the programme, building on the existing programme governance at the regional and national levels.

I have now informed RDAs of their indicative budget allocations for 2011-12. I am pleased that, following the spending review, we are able to continue to deliver funding under axes 1 and 3 and Leader over the remainder of the programme period. But budgets are constrained and I have asked RDAs to ensure the funding available is focused on delivering against our key priorities for competitiveness and rural areas, while also beginning the process of putting in place the new nationally consistent approach to delivery in 2011-12. RDAs will inform applicants and local action groups of the position within their region. Customers should continue to remain in touch with their existing contacts within the RDAs for further information about the position on individual projects or applications.

New Waterways Charity

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): On 21 June 2010 I made a statement about inland waterways policy for England and Wales, *Official Report*, column 4WS. I said that we were considering the appropriate civil society model for British Waterways, including the possible inclusion of the Environment Agency's navigations. On 14 October, the Government subsequently announced their intention to move British Waterways in England and Wales from being a public corporation to a new waterways charity—subject to parliamentary approval.

As a result of work undertaken by the Government, British Waterways and the Environment Agency over the last few months, I am convinced by the compelling vision of a national trust for the waterways that includes the British Waterways and Environment Agency navigations. However, I wish to take a phased approach to the delivery of this vision, so that assets and liabilities can be transferred sustainably. In phase 1, the liabilities and assets of British Waterways in England and Wales will transfer into the new charity, alongside an "endowment" consisting of the property portfolio owned by British Waterways in England and Wales. In phase 2, the EA navigations would transfer to the new charity, if sufficient funding can be found in the next spending review to enable the charity to take on the liabilities associated with them, and subject to the agreement of the charity's trustees.

The Government's proposed approach, which will be subject to public consultation as part of the forthcoming consultation on setting up the new charity, is that the EA navigations should transfer to the new charity in 2015-16 in the next spending review period, if it is affordable to do so. To maintain momentum, a review will be undertaken in 2014 to assess the progress and achievements of the new charity and to consider the options for the transfer of the EA navigations.

The Government are absolutely committed to delivering their exciting vision for a national trust for the waterways over the coming years and consider that over time the new waterways charity offers the most sustainable future for both the BW waterways and EA navigations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Monthly Progress Report

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the third progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of January.

January saw a greater tempo of operations than in previous winters because of the high number of International Stabilisation and Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers and Afghan security forces, the milder than usual weather and the insurgents' continued attempts to intimidate the population through asymmetric attacks. Attacks such as the suicide bombing of a Kabul supermarket on 28 January and the assassination of the deputy governor of Kandahar province by a suicide bomber on 29 January show that the insurgency has little respect for the safety of civilians or legitimate governance.

ISAF will continue to seek to protect the population from such acts and build up Afghan security forces to ensure that they are ready to take responsibility for security across the country by the end of 2014. Progress continues to be made in developing the Afghan national security forces (ANSF). By the middle of January the Afghan national army (ANA) had reached a total of around 149,500 personnel and the Afghan national police (ANP) around 117,000. Both are still on track to meet the targets agreed at the London conference in January 2010.

ISAF's monthly assessment in January highlighted progress in several provinces, including central Helmand. ISAF confirmed that security transition remains on track to begin early this year. President Karzai said that he intends to announce the first phase of transition in his Afghan new year address in March. The new Afghan Parliament was inaugurated on 26 January, marking the completion of the 2010 electoral process. The new parliamentarians convened for the first time on 29 January and began the process of electing a new Speaker.

On 1 January the Helmand provincial Government and elders from the Alikhozai from the Upper Sangin valley agreed a peace accord. The Helmand Provincial Government are working to establish a 15-man shura of elders who can represent local communities to consolidate and expand the agreement. Helmand provincial governor, Gulab Mangal, also established a five-man provincial reintegration secretariat to support the delivery of reintegration policy across Helmand.

The UK, through the Helmand provincial reconstruction team (PRT), supported a three-day conference in Lashkar Gah for 85 community elders and mullahs from seven districts to learn about the relationship between community-based and statutory justice systems.

In January, 984 communities elected community development councils that support local community-driven development projects. DFID contributes to the Government of Afghanistan's community-driven development projects in rural and insecure areas: 1,431 project proposals were approved in January, and 372 projects were completed. These included improvements to water supplies and sanitation, the building of rural roads, the rebuilding of irrigation networks and electricity generation. Over 1,000 Sangin residents, nearly a third of them women, took part in a health education event in Sangin district centre. The Helmand PRT provided Afghan health workers with 8,000 home medical kits to distribute during such health training events.

Members of the High Peace Council, leading the Afghan Government's reintegration and reconciliation strategy, visited Islamabad in January. They discussed Pakistan's role in Afghan peace efforts with Pakistani leaders.

The drugs trade remains a threat to the stability of Afghanistan, has a corrosive effect on governance and provides financial and logistical support to the insurgency. Progress is being made on counter-narcotics: the first 50 Afghan interdiction operations of 2011 seized 1,985 kg opium, 61 kg heroin, 1197 kg cannabis, and 338 kg chemical precursors. Fifty-eight suspects were arrested. Additionally, almost a tonne of bomb-making equipment was found during these operations: a clear reminder of the links between the insurgency and the drugs trade.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Charging for Immigration and Nationality Services 2011-12

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am announcing proposals to change the fees for immigration and nationality applications made to the UK Border Agency. The Government review these fees on a regular basis and make appropriate changes as necessary. I will shortly lay regulations for fees that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service. We have continued with our strategic approach to charging setting certain fees above cost on the basis of the value of the service.

These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the affirmative procedure. The fees allow us to generate revenue which is used to fund the UK immigration system and to set certain fees below cost recovery to support wider Government objectives. The revenue generated will contribute towards securing our borders and controlling migration for the benefit of the UK. I will lay another set of regulations in Parliament for the fees for immigration and nationality services that are set at/below the cost of the service.

A table with details of all the proposed increases is set out at annex A. The table includes indicative unit costs for each application for FY 11/12. The unit cost is the estimated average cost to UK Border Agency of processing each application. Although our unit costs are not fixed over the course of the financial year, we publish unit costs so it is clear which fees we set over cost and by how much. Further details of all fees changes will be outlined in the explanatory memoranda accompanying both the regulations.

Given the need to reduce public spending, we have had to carefully consider our fee levels, to ensure we can maintain good service levels to our customers and secure the border for the general public. In principle it is the right time to ask migrants to make a greater contribution to funding the UK Border Agency than was previously the case. Therefore we should continue to seek a shift in the funding provided by migrants to deliver the border and immigration system with a consequent reduction in the burden on UK taxpayers.

In developing these proposals, we have sought to limit increases so as to avoid any broader economic impact (particularly on the most economically sensitive route of all, short-term visit visas).

I believe these proposals continue to strike the right balance between maintaining secure and effective border controls, and ensuring that our fees structure does not inhibit the UK's ability to attract those migrants and visitors who make a valued contribution. It is right that those who benefit directly from the immigration system should pay to meet the costs of securing the UK's borders. This will help to support the immigration system, maintain public confidence, and ensure that migration is managed for the benefit of the UK.

Full details on how to apply for all of these services will be provided on our website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Annex A

Out of Country

Visa – Non PBS (New Products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Visit visa – short	£140	£70	£76
Visit visa - long 2 year	£140	£245	£265
Visit visa - long 5 year	£140	£450	£486
Visit visa - long 10 year	£140	£650	£702
Short Term Student <12 Months Visa	£140	£70	£140
Settlement	£391	£750	£810
Settlement - Dependant Relative	£458	£1,680	£1,814
Certificate of Entitlement	£355	£245	£265
Other Visa	£163	£245	£265
Transit Visa	£73	£47	£51
Vignette Transfer Fee	£163	£93	£100
Call Out/Out of Hours Fee	£134/hr	130/hr max £939/ day	£130/hr
*Forwarding documents to Commonwealth Countries/ Overseas Territories (additional fee)	n/a	£65	£70
*Handling applications on behalf of Commonwealth Countries/Overseas Territories	n/a	£48	£50
*Single entry visa to Replace Biometric Residence Permit Overseas	£70	n/a	£70

Visa – PBS (New Products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Tier 1 (Entrepreneur, Investor, Exceptional Talent) - Main Apps	£432	£750	£800
Tier 1 (Entrepreneur, Investor, Exceptional Talent) - Dependants	£432	£750	£800
Tier 1 CESC - Main Apps	£432	£700	£720
Tier 1 CESC - Dependants	£432	£700	£800
Tier 1 (Transition)	n/a	£332	£332
Tier 1 (Transition) CESC	n/a	£300	£300
Tier 1 Post Study - Main	£459	£344	£474
Tier 1 Post Study - Dependants	£459	£344	£474

Visa – PBS (New Products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Tier 2 Gen, Sport & MOR - Main Apps	£250	£350	£400
Tier 2 Gen, Sport & MOR - Dependants	£250	£350	£400
*Tier 2 ICT <12Mths - Main Apps & Dependants	£227	n/a	£350
*Tier 2 ICT <12Mths - CESC Main Applicant	£227	n/a	£315
Tier 2 CESC - Main Apps	£250	£300	£360
Tier 2 CESC - Dependants	£250	£300	£400
Tier 4 - Main Apps	£289	£220	£255
Tier 4 - Dependants	£289	£220	£255
Tier 5 Temp Work & YM	£206	£130	£190
Tier 5 CESC	£206	£120	£171
Tier 5 CESC - Dependants	£206	£130	£190

N.B. CESC = Council of Europe Social Charter reduction

Applications to the Channel Islands under Employment and Study routes attract Tier 2 & Tier 4 fees and costs respectively.

In Country

Nationality (New Products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Naturalisation (UK Citizenship) Single[1]	£238	£780	£836
Naturalisation (UK Citizenship) Joint [1]	£319	£1,010	£1,294
Naturalisation (UK Citizenship) Spouse [1]	£238	£780	£836
Nationality Registration Adult [1]	£238	£580	£620
Nationality Registration Minor[2]	£238	£500	£540
Nationality Registration Multiple Minor Main [2]	£319	£600	£810
Nationality Registration Multiple Minor Dependant [2]	£238	£150	£270
Renunciation of Nationality	£238	£208	£225
Nationality Reissued Certificate	£88	£80	£86
Nationality Right of Abode	£162	£150	£162
Nationality Reconsiderations	£88	£100	£80
Status Letter (Nationality)	£88	£80	£86
Non-Acquisition Letter (Nationality)	£88	£80	£86
*Nationality Correction to Certificate	£88	n/a	£86

[1] Additional £80 per applicant is included to cover the ceremony fee.

[2] Additional £80 per applicant is required to cover the ceremony fee should the minor turn 18 during the application process. This will be requested at point of decision.

In UK - Non PBS (New products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
ILR Postal Main	£243	£900	£972
I ILR Postal Dependant	£243	£250	£486
ILR Postal CESC Main	£243	£850	£875
ILR Postal CESC Dependant	£243	£250	£486
ILR PEO Main	£243	£1,250	£1,350
ILR PEO Dependant	£243	£350	£675
ILR PEO CESC Main	£243	£1,100	£1,215
ILR PEO CESC Dependant	£243	£300	£675
ILR Dependant Relative Postal	£299	£1,680	£1,814
ILR Dependant Relative PEO	£299	£2,050	£2,214
LTR Non Student Postal Main	£418	£500	£550
LTR Non Student Postal Dependant	£418	£150	£275
LTR Non Student PEO Main	£419	£800	£850
LTR Non Student PEO Dependant	£419	£200	£425
Transfer of Conditions Postal Main	£219	£200	£216
Transfer of Conditions Postal Dependant	£219	£50	£108
Transfer of Conditions PEO Main	£219	£600	£648
Transfer of Conditions PEO Dependant	£219	£150	£324
Travel Documents Adult (CoT)	£241	£220	£238
Travel Documents Adult CTD	£241	£77.50	£77.50
Travel Documents Child (CoT)	£152	£138	£149
Travel Documents Child CTD	£152	£49	£49
Replacement Biometric Residence Permit	£37	£30	£37
Mobile Case working (Premium+)	£2,211	£15,000	£6,000 + PEO Fee
Call Out/Out of Hours Fee	£134/hr	£130/hr max £939/ day	£130/hr
Work Permit Technical Changes	£123	£20	£22
Residual FLR IED Postal - Main	£246	£500	£550
Residual FLR IED Postal - Dependants	£238	£150	£275
Residual FLR IED PEO-Main	£148	£800	£850
Residual FLR IED PEO - Dependants	£148	£200	£425
Residual FLR BUS Postal - Main	£148	£850	£1,000
Residual FLR BUS Postal - Dependants	£148	£250	£500
Employment LTR outside PBS Postal	£362	£500	£550
Employment LTR outside PBS Postal Dependant	£362	£150	£275
Employment LTR outside PBS PEO	£303	£800	£850
Employment LTR outside PBS PEO Dependant	£303	£200	£425
*Additional Out of Hours Caseworking[1] - PEO Main	n/a	n/a	£300
*Additional Out of Hours Caseworking[1] - PEO Dependant	n/a	n/a	£150
*EEA Applications at PEO (per person)	n/a	n/a	£300

[1] Out of hours caseworking fee payable on top of standard PEO fee

CESC = Council of Europe Social Charter reduction

LTR = Leave to Remain

PEO = Public Enquiry Office

ILR = Indefinite Leave to Remain

In UK - PBS(New products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Tier 1 - Postal Main	£269	£850	£1,000

In UK - PBS(New products)*	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Oct/ Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Tier 1 - Postal Dependant	£269	£250	£500
Tier 1 - Postal CESC Main	£269	£770	£900
Tier 1 - Postal CESC Dependant	£269	£250	£500
Tier 1 - PEO Main	£253	£1,150	£1,300
Tier 1 - PEO Dependant	£253	£300	£650
Tier 1 - PEO CESC Main	£253	£1,000	£1,170
Tier 1 - PEO CESC Dependant	£253	£300	£650
Tier 1 - (Post Study) - Postal Main	£337	£550	£594
Tier 1 - (Post Study) - Postal Dependant	£337	£150	£297
Tier 1 - (Post Study) - PEO Main	£337	£850	£918
Tier 1 - (Post Study) - PEO Dependant	£337	£250	£459
Tier 1 - Transition Postal Main	n/a	£500	£500
Tier 1 - Transition Postal Dependant	n/a	£150	£250
Tier 1 - Transition PEO Main	n/a	£700	£700
Tier 1 - Transition PEO Dependant	n/a	£200	£350
Tier 2 - Postal Main	£169	£500	£550
Tier 2 - Postal Dependant	£169	£150	£275
Tier 2 - Postal CESC Main	£155	£450	£495
Tier 2 - Postal CESC Dependant	£155	£150	£275
Tier 2 - PEO Main	£169	£800	£850
Tier 2 - PEO Dependant	£169	£200	£425
Tier 2 - PEO CESC Main	£169	£700	£765
Tier 2 - PEO CESC Dependant	£169	£200	£425
*Tier 2 - Postal Main (ICT <12 months)	£169	n/a	£350
*Tier 2 - Postal Dependants (ICT <12 months)	£169	n/a	£175
*Tier 2 - PEO Main (ICT <12 months)	£169	n/a	£650
*Tier 2 - PEO Dependants (ICT <12 months)	£169	n/a	£325
*Tier 2 - Postal CESC Main (ICT <12 months)	£155	n/a	£315
*Tier 2 - PEO CESC Main (ICT <12 months)	£169	n/a	£585
Tier 4 - Postal Main	£316	£357	£386
Tier 4 - Postal Dependant	£316	£100	£193
Tier 4 - PEO Main	£316	£650	£702
Tier 4 - PEO Dependant	£316	£150	£351
Tier 5 - Postal Main	£235	£130	£190
Tier 5 - Postal Dependant	£235	£30	£95
Tier 5 - Postal CESC Main	£235	£120	£171
Tier 5 - Postal CESC Dependant	£235	£30	£95
Tier 5 - PEO Main	£240	£600	£648
Tier 5 - PEO Dependant	£240	£150	£324
Tier 5 - PEO CESC Main	£240	£550	£583
Tier 5 - PEO CESC Dependant	£240	£150	£324
PBS Dependants Applying Separately - Postal	£418	£500	£550
PBS Dependants Applying Separately - PEO	£419	£800	£850
*Tier 4 - Permission to Change Course[1]	£160	n/a	£160

N.B. CESC - Council of Europe Social Charter reduction

[1] Only for migrants that applied to UKBA for permission to study between 31 March and 4 October 2009

PBS Sponsorship	*Unit Costs April 2011*	*Current Fees Nov 2010*	*Proposed Fees April 2011*
Tier 2 Large Sponsor Licence	£1,007	£1,000	£1,025
Tier 2 Small Sponsor Licence	£1,007	£300	£310
Tier 4 Sponsor Licence	£1,007	£400	£410
Tier 5 Sponsor Licence	£1,007	£400	£410
Tier 2, Tier 4 &/or Tier 5 Licence (where sponsor currently holds T4 or T5 licence)	£1,007	£600	£615
Highly Trusted Sponsor Licence	£1,007	£400	£410
Sponsor Action Plan	£1,007	£1,000	£1,000
Tier 2 COS	£172	£170	£175
Tier 5 COS	£15	£10	£10
Tier 4 CAS	£15	£10	£10

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Turks and Caicos Islands

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr Alan Duncan): Further to the written statement by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) of 9 December, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, and the Department for International Development's minute of 3 February notifying Parliament that the Secretary of State for International Development had approved in principle a loan guarantee to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG), I would like to update the House.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has now finalised a guarantee in favour of Scotiabank (Turks and Caicos) Ltd to provide TCIG with access to a maximum capital amount of US$ 260 million over the next five years. I confirm that TCIG will immediately repay DFID its loan of £29.9 million plus interest.

This level of commercial borrowing is vital if TCIG is to turn around its dire financial situation. It will provide the time TCIG needs to implement budget measures which will lead to achieving a fiscal surplus in the financial year ending March 2013. As the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk, and I reported to Parliament on 9 December 2010, this is one of a number of key milestones to be reached before a date for elections can be set. Once the territory is in fiscal surplus it will be able to start to pay off its debt and should, after the five-year period is over, if not before, be able to secure new and reduced bank lending without the need for a UK Government guarantee.

The guarantee is intended to cost the UK taxpayer nothing. It will ensure that TCI does not fall victim to financial ruin and it is in line with DFID's responsibility to underpin the reasonable needs of all British overseas territories.

The current chief financial officer has done an excellent job in getting a grip on TCIG's public finances. To ensure that the financial plan stays on track to achieve a fiscal surplus DFID reserves the right to require TCIG to retain the position of chief financial officer for as long as the guarantee is in force and to nominate the holder of this post who shall then be appointed by the governor.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Robert Hamill Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): In my written statement of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, I informed the House that following an announcement by the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland that it planned to prosecute three individuals in connection with the death of Robert Hamill, I would not publish the report of the Robert Hamill inquiry until these legal proceedings had concluded. Publishing the report while proceedings are ongoing would jeopardise the individuals' right to a fair trial.

I also set out the checking process which is required to meet the obligations on me in relation to article 2 of the European convention on human rights and in relation to national security. I can confirm that this checking process has now been completed and I have received advice from the checking team which confirms that there is nothing in the report which, if published, could breach article 2 of the European convention on human rights by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk, or put national security at risk. I am therefore satisfied that once legal proceedings have concluded, the report can be published in full. I have advised Sir Edwin Jowitt, the chairman of the inquiry, of this.

I have also asked Sir Edwin to retain formal custody of the report in a secure location until the legal proceedings have concluded and it can be submitted to me and be published. The report has not been shown to me or to any other member of the Government, or to any officials except the two members of the team who carried out the checking process. I have not been briefed on the contents of the report, nor have any officials other than those in the checking team.

Again, I reassure the House that once the legal proceedings have concluded, I intend to publish the report in full and as soon as practicable. Once a timetable for publication becomes clear, I will update the House accordingly.

TRANSPORT

High-Speed Rail

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): Today, I am launching the consultation on the Government's proposals for a national high-speed rail network. "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future" sets out the Government's case for this network, the details of the Government's strategy, and the proposed route for an initial phase from London to the west midlands. It will be one of the most extensive national consultations ever undertaken.

I believe that a national high-speed rail network from London to Birmingham, with onward legs to Leeds and Manchester, could transform Britain's competitiveness as profoundly as the coming of the railways in the 19th century. It would reshape Britain's economic geography, helping bridge the north-south divide though massive improvements in journey times and better connections between cities—slashing almost an hour off the trip from London to Manchester.

But the proposed high-speed rail network would do more. It would address Britain's future transport capacity challenge—providing a huge uplift in long-distance capacity and relieving pressure on overstretched conventional lines. It would bring around £44 billion of net monetised benefits and support the creation of thousands of new jobs, as well as delivering unquantifiable strategic benefits. And it would help us to build a sustainable economy—by encouraging millions of people out of cars and off planes onto trains. Our competitors already recognise the huge benefits of high-speed rail and are pressing ahead with ambitious plans. Britain cannot afford to be left behind.

The Government's support for high-speed rail was set out clearly in their programme for government, published in May last year. Since then, we have built upon the work already done by HS2 Ltd to consider the case for high-speed rail in the UK. Last October's spending review settlement reaffirmed our support and provided over £750 million to fund the development of our national network proposals over the next four years.

Since then, the Government have received additional advice from HS2 Ltd on options for a national high-speed rail network and on direct links to Heathrow and the High Speed 1 (HS l) line to the channel tunnel.

The Government understand the concerns of those living near the proposed route. Following a series of visits I made along the proposed London-west midlands line, we have altered around half the original route—significantly reducing the potential local environmental impacts.

In the Chilterns area of outstanding natural beauty, all but 1.2 miles would be in tunnel, cutting, or close to the A413 road corridor. Since HS2 Ltd's original report to Government was published in March 2010, the number of properties where high noise levels would be expected to be experienced has fallen from 350 to around 10.

In December 2010, I set out our proposed high-speed rail strategy, our preferred route and our approach to delivering a wider high-speed network.

However, we recognise that decisions should not be taken on a major infrastructure project of this scale until all those with an interest have had their say. So this consultation—which will run until 29 July—seeks views on: the case for high-speed rail; our strategy for a national high-speed network; the proposed route for an initial line from London to the West Midlands; and our options for providing assistance to those who are detrimentally affected by any new line. Responses can be submitted through the HS2 consultation website, or sent to a freepost address.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on the DFT website. I am also publishing a number of more detailed supporting documents, including a detailed economic case, a full appraisal of sustainability and a route engineering report.

My Department will be conducting a series of regional seminars to inform the strategic debate, together with a series of roadshows along the line of the proposed London-west midlands route. These will give people the chance to discuss our plans and the specific local impacts and mitigation proposals with the engineers and other specialists working on the project.

This is a once-in-a-generation infrastructure investment that would have a transformational effect on Britain's economy. Civic leaders of all political persuasions and business leaders from all parts of the United Kingdom support it. I urge all hon. Members with an interest to encourage their constituents to participate in the consultation. I will announce the outcome of this consultation process and the Government's decisions on their strategy for high-speed rail before the end of 2011.

Local and Regional Rail Services

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): Local authorities and integrated transport authorities from time to time wish to develop proposals for new or enhanced rail services where, in their view, they offer the best way of meeting the transport needs of their area. They have the necessary powers to secure the provision of such services but they are sometimes inhibited by the risk that significant revenue funding may need to be committed over the long term. I am keen to encourage local bodies to identify the best solutions for identified local needs and therefore wish to ensure that they are not deterred from considering an improved rail service where it clearly offers value for money.

The Government's priority remains one of reducing the budget deficit and, therefore, careful consideration has to be given to any proposal that might increase the cost of the railway, either in the short or long-term. However, we recognise the arguments put forward by promoters that regional and local rail services need to adapt to population, housing and economic growth in localities. Therefore, it is only right that, once they have demonstrated value for money after a trial period, new or improved services promoted by local authorities are treated in a similar way to the more established services which are currently funded as part of the national network.

I would therefore like to announce to the House that the Government still intend to fund the provision of new or enhanced services promoted by authorities which have rail industry support, but in view of the tough financial decisions made as part of the spending review, no such funding will be provided prior to April 2015 (the start of the next spending review period).

It is important that the promoter demonstrates that a rail scheme is the best way to address regional and local transport issues; hence promoters would still be expected to fund a new or enhanced service for the first three years to demonstrate its commitment to the service and show that it delivers value for money in the light of actual experience.

Schemes which the Department would consider funding in this way would be subject to a number of conditions, details of which have been deposited in the Library of the House and will be made available on the Department for Transport's website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 March 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Unpublished Research Reports: Immigration, the Economy and Regeneration

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today the Government are publishing a further group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration. There is a significant backlog of unpublished reports that were produced by the previous Government and over the next few months we will be publishing further reports in groups themed on particular topics.

The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our freedom of information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research. For transparency, all concluded research work is being published, though some reports may not be as complete or in the format that DCLG would normally require.

The 10 reports published below represent the findings from research projects at a total cost to taxpayers of £219,597. These findings cover the topics of immigration, the economy and regeneration.

(i) *Impact of economic downturn on migration.*

This discussion paper by A.E. Green reviews the evidence on the likely impact of an economic downturn on both international migration and migration in different parts of the UK, with particular focus on migrants from the A8 countries (of the 2004 accession to the EU). It observes that for 83% of A8 migrants, the main motivation for coming to Britain was to work and earn money. This report was commissioned in 2008 at a cost of £3,400.

(ii) *Immigration and rural economies.*

This report by Heather Wells and Paula Lucci considers the impacts and contributions of international migration to rural economies in the UK. The paper finds that there was a substantial increase in the size of the migrant population in rural areas in the four years before the recession, which was driven by a strong demand for migrant labour from particular industries. Immigration has had a significant but small negative impact on the wages of UK workers at the bottom of the occupational distribution. Challenges from immigration include pressure on existing local services and integration within local communities. This report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £24,275.

(iii) *Measuring international and internal migration from the National Pupil Database.*

This report by Ludi Simpson, et al. considers the dispersion of migrant pupils in the UK. The paper finds the number of immigrant pupils in UK schools has increased significantly in the four-year period to 2007-08 and that pupils of African origin tend to be concentrated in inner London and other major metropolitan areas while eastern European and other European pupils arrived since 2003 tend to be found in the more remote rural areas. A table in annex 2 gives a breakdown by local authority. This report was commissioned in 2010 by the last Administration at a cost of £78,500.

(iv) *Economic Rationale for Spatial Policies or Why Place Matters.*

This paper by Patricia Rice outlines why there are differences between places, and advocates policy that takes this into account. It considers that variations in outcomes for different areas are a result of regional trade and factor mobility, but seeks to explain the underlying differences between areas. This report was commissioned in 2007 at a cost of £2,034.

(v) *Addressing the problem of worklessness: The role of regeneration.*

This paper by Anne Green, with its focus on worklessness and regeneration considers the complex and challenging real-world roles of mainstream policies and area-based programmes, including the roles of local government, the community and employers. It notes that the neighbourhood level is an appropriate level for outreach to disadvantaged residents, and the voluntary sector can play an important role in facilitating community participation. Partnerships have been costly to develop and support, and have not generated the critical mass of support for the neighbourhoods that it was envisaged. This report was commissioned in 2009 as part of a series of four papers which together cost £11,622.

(vi) *Regeneration—What are the problems and what can we achieve in addressing them? Neighbourhood level perspectives from the new deal for communities programme.*

This paper by Paul Lawless, with its focus on neighbourhood renewal, draws on evidence from the evaluation of the new deal for communities programme to review the problems faced in the partnership areas and consider both process and change outcomes that regeneration programmes should seek to achieve. This report was commissioned in 2009 as part of a series of four papers which together cost £11,622.

(vii) *Regeneration—What are the problems and what can we achieve in addressing them?*

This paper by Pete Tyler, with its focus on local economic activity and regeneration, reviews what lies behind the problems faced by deprived places and notes that although rooted in a general failure of supply and demand mechanisms, problems tend to be multi-dimension and persistent and likely to require substantial policy intervention to make an impact. It anticipated that constraints on public expenditure would inevitably mean that regeneration initiatives would be operating in a more difficult environment. This report was commissioned in 2009 as part of a series of four papers which together cost £11,622.

(viii) *Regeneration—How should the problem be addressed?*

This paper by Stephen Syrett, reviews the weaknesses of past approaches to regeneration, pointing out the over-dominance of centralised structures, the neglect of education and training in deprived areas, the need for greater clarity over the role and relevance of area-based initiatives. Local capacity will only develop if greater scope and freedom is given to local actors to make their own priorities. This report was commissioned in 2009 as part of a series of four papers which together cost £11,622.

(ix) *Modelling and forecasting county court claims and orders for mortgage repossessions.*

This report by Professor John Muellbauer and Janine Aron was commissioned jointly by the former National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and the UK Spatial Economic Centre. The study explores the determinants of mortgage possession court orders as well as forecasting court orders on a regional basis for England and Wales from 2011 to 2015. It observed that the recent house price and credit boom of 2006-08 had increased the proportion of households with overstretched budgets and over-extended debt relative to their assets. The most important determinant of court claims and orders was found to be the debt to income ratio. This report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £30,366.[1]

(x) *Housing supply revisited: Evidence from international, national, regional, local and company data.*

This report by Michael Ball, et al. considers the responsiveness of housing supply to changes in prices and the degree to which planning restrictions and other factors limit this responsiveness. If found that factors other than planning supply influence the responsiveness of housing supply. It suggests that different planning targets are required for each local authority, to reflect local decision making processes. This report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £69,400.

At a time when public budgets must be reduced, the new Government want to ensure their research delivers best possible value for money for the taxpayer and that sums expended are reasonable in relation to the public policy benefits obtained. My Department has rigorous scrutiny and challenge processes for commissioned research.

New projects will continue to be scrutinised to ensure the methodology is sound and that all options for funding are explored at an early stage. This includes using existing work from other organisations, joint funding projects with other Departments or organisations and taking work forward in-house.

These reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not a reflection of the current Government's policies and priorities. DCLG is publishing these reports in the interests of transparency.

Copies of these reports are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Redundancy Process

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) set out in October 2010 long-term plans for our armed forces, based on a detailed analysis of the future risk and threats to our national security, but also recognising the dire fiscal situation inherited by this Government. That new 2020 force structure will be more agile and flexible, better able to respond to new threats such as cyber-warfare, terrorism and managing the consequences of failed or failing states. As the SDSR made clear, however, that force structure will require fewer people: the combined size of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force will fall by some 17,000 by 2015. These changes are about delivering the future force we need, not about today's operational capabilities.

Some of this reduction will be achieved by slowing down recruitment—but the long-term health of the services requires that we maintain a steady influx of new recruits. And so we estimate that up to around 11,000 personnel will need to be made redundant. In formal terms, redundancy schemes for the armed forces are compulsory. But there will be scope for individuals to volunteer to be considered for redundancy and where possible we will meet our manpower target through volunteers. But some difficult choices are sadly inevitable.

The SDSR set out some changes to our long-term requirements for fast jets, multi-engine aircraft and helicopters. As a result, our future requirement for pilots has reduced. Some 514 individuals currently being trained are potentially affected by these changes. Starting today and over the next 10 days, those trainee pilots will be informed of their future in the RAF. Some 344 will continue with their pilot training. But I very much regret to inform the House that up to 170 will not. Some of those individuals will be offered alternative appointments. But sadly many will have to be made redundant.

Today, the RAF will also publish in some detail the specialist trades in which reductions in numbers need to be achieved, and in which it will be seeking volunteers for redundancy. Detailed information on the terms on offer, including the compensation package, will be made available online. Similar information will be published for the Army and Navy on 4 April 2011.

Once the deadline for response has passed, selection boards will sit for each of the three services to determine whether those who have volunteered should be released and which other individuals should also regrettably be made redundant to enable the manning targets to be achieved. We aim to inform all those individuals selected for redundancy of that decision in September 2011—on 1 September for the Army and RAF, and 30 September for the Navy. Those voluntarily leaving the armed forces will do so within six months, non-volunteers will do so within a year.

The Department will need to balance extremely carefully the needs of the individual with the needs of our armed forces. And I am determined that this very difficult process will be handled with the utmost sensitivity and professionalism. No one who is deployed on operations, recently returned from operations or is preparing to deploy on operations will be made redundant unless they have volunteered. Nor will those undergoing rehabilitation from injury be considered. But inevitably some incredibly difficult decisions will have to be made to ensure the long-term health and balance of our armed forces.

In Afghanistan, and as has been seen in recent days in Libya, our armed forces constantly perform great acts of heroism, selflessness and valour to keep us safe. As a country, we have an absolute responsibility to ensure that those who risk their lives in that way are properly looked after while they serve our country but equally importantly when they return to civilian life. For all those leaving the armed forces as a result of these changes, every effort will be made to assist in what can often be a difficult transition. A comprehensive package of support and advice on housing, finance and finding a job will be made available. Over the coming months. Ministers will scrutinise those plans in detail, working closely with domestic Departments, to ensure they are as good as can be achieved. Our people deserve nothing less.

Armed Forces Pay Review Body (Public Appointments)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Mr Paul Kernaghan CBE QPM, Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Ibbotson KBE CB DSC and Professor Peter Dolton as members of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, each for a three-year term of office commencing on 1 March 2011. The appointments have been made in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice.

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[1] *[Official Report, 4 April 2011, Vol. 526, c. 11MC.]*

Written Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in my written answer (31219) given on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 987-88W.

The response said that that there were 265 civilian staff employed in London by the MOD currently not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage. I can confirm that excluding trading funds, there were no civilian staff employed in London by the MOD currently not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Citizenship
(War Crimes Screening)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I have made the Equality (War Crimes etc.) Arrangements 2011 and the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) (War Crimes etc.) Arrangements 2011 to enable the Secretary of State to subject applications from certain nationalities for British citizenship to more rigorous scrutiny than others for the purposes of determining whether the applicant has committed, been complicit in the commission of, or otherwise been associated with, the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

The Equality (War Crimes etc.) Arrangements 2011 are made under paragraph (l)(l)(d) of schedule 23 to the Equality Act 2010, and replace the Race Relations (Nationality) (War Crimes etc.) Arrangements 2007, made under section 41 of the Race Relations Act 1976. The corresponding Race Relations (Northern Ireland) (War Crimes etc.) Arrangements 2011 are made under article 40 paragraph 2(c) Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

The condition for subjecting these applications to more rigorous scrutiny is that the applicant is a national of a state specified on a list approved personally by the Minister for the purpose of the arrangements.

I have now reviewed and approved this list. I am satisfied that the conditions set out in the arrangements are met in respect of the countries on the list.

The arrangements will remain in force until revoked. I will review the arrangements and the list on an annual basis.

I am placing copies of the arrangements in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 2 March 2011

EDUCATION

School Capital

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Mr Justice Holman, on Friday 11 February, handed down the judgment in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) judicial review proceedings brought by Luton borough council and Nottingham city council; Waltham Forest London borough council; Newham London borough council; Kent county council and Sandwell metropolitan borough council.

The judge said that he was

> "absolutely clear that the decision is not open to legal challenge on a discrete ground of irrationality, however that argument is developed or put";

and he agreed that nothing which the Department for Education or Partnerships for Schools had done in respect of these local authorities went

> "so far as to create a substantive legitimate expectation that any given project would definitely proceed."

These were the substantive points in this case and I am delighted that the judge ruled in my favour.

There were further, procedural, grounds on which the claimants made their case, in particular on a duty to consult; and on the duty to have due regard to equalities considerations. On these procedural grounds, the judge has ruled in favour of the claimants.

The judge has not ordered a reinstatement of funding for any BSF project. Nor has he ordered me to pay compensation to any of the claimants. Instead, he concluded that I

> "must now, after giving each of them a reasonable opportunity to make representations, reconsider [my] decision insofar as it affects the claimants and each of the projects in relation to which they have claimed, with an open mind, paying due regard to any representations they may make, and rigorously discharging [my] equalities duties."

Officials have, today, written to the six claimant local authorities to begin a process of consultation on their affected BSF projects.

The process

I have requested that the six local authorities provide me with any and all information about the BSF projects in their area which they consider is necessary for me to take into account when making a fresh decision with respect to those projects.

I will not be making contact directly with the affected schools. Local authorities will want to engage with the schools concerned and will provide the school-level information that they consider is necessary for me to have in mind when making my decision. Local authorities are in the best position to give an overview of the local issues affecting the school estate in their areas.

I have suggested that the local authorities may wish to include information on building condition, basic-need pressures, contractual liabilities, equalities impact and any school reorganisation proposals for each school within their claim. In addition, I have suggested that they highlight the particular circumstances of the schools which are covered by their claims and how these differ from schools which have either already received or are due to receive BSF investment as a result of inclusion in an earlier wave; and schools which are not due to receive any BSF funding at all. They may also wish to include information about costs that the councils have incurred by taking part in the repeat wave of the BSF.

During the consultation period, new general equalities duties may come into effect. As a result, in order to rigorously discharge my duty in relation to all protected characteristics, in addition to disability, race and gender characteristics, I will consider the protected characteristics of gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership and sexual orientation.

The local authorities have been given a deadline of 11 April to return their representations to the Department.

Partnerships for Schools (PFS) has been commissioned to conduct site surveys of the schools in the consultation and their reports will be sent to the local authorities concerned.

Next steps

I will consider carefully the information that the local authorities provide. Local authority officers and relevant elected members and Members of Parliament will be invited to attend a meeting at the Department. These meetings will allow the local authorities to discuss the information they have provided in more depth and allow them to make further representations on issues that they consider need particular attention. The purpose of the meetings will be to allow local authorities the opportunity to fully present their case and is a further part of the information-gathering phase. No decision will be made at the meetings.

At the next stage a letter detailing my provisional or "minded to" decision will be sent to the local authorities and they will be given the opportunity to make further representations.

After that, I will make a decision on each of the projects, having considered, with an open mind, all of the information gathered over the consultation period and with due regard to my equalities duties. As the judge made clear,

> "the final decision on any given school or project still rests with [me]",

and that I

> "may save all, some, a few or none".

He concluded by saying that

> "no one should gain false hope from this decision".

I have written to all relevant Members of Parliament and local authority elected members to inform them of the consultation process. All schools within the consultation process have also been copied the letter sent to the local authority to ensure they are informed of the process. I have also placed in the Library of the House copies of the letters sent by my officials to the relevant local authority chief executives.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

2050 Pathways Analysis

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I am announcing that the Government are launching the updated 2050 pathways analysis and 2050 calculator tomorrow. This analysis has been updated following discussion with experts, and reflects suggestions received during the call for evidence held July to October 2010.

The UK faces major choices about how to move to a secure, low-carbon energy system and wider economy over the period to 2050. The 2050 pathways analysis is a tool to help policy makers and the public understand these choices. The analysis was developed with extensive engagement of experts from business, academia and the third sector.

Alongside the updated 2050 calculator and pathways analysis report, tomorrow I will launch a new tool: the My2050 simulation. This user-friendly version of the analysis is aimed at a youth audience and we plan to engage schools and colleges in using it to raise awareness of the issues. My2050 is designed to help young people explore the hard choices the UK faces when it comes to tackling climate change and securing energy supplies. Scientists, engineers and politicians around the world have been grappling with these issues, but in the end it is ordinary people, especially young people, who in 2050 will be living with these decisions.

Tomorrow also sees the launch of our online event: "The 2050 Pathways Debate: having an energy-literate conversation about the UK's options to 2050". Leading climate and energy experts will use the 2050 pathways calculator to present their personal view of how the UK can reduce its emissions by at least 80% by 2050, ahead of the online debate being opened to the wider public.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Christchurch Earthquake

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): A significant earthquake hit Christchurch, in New Zealand's South Island, at 12.51 pm local time (23:51 GMT) on Tuesday 22 February 2011. The earthquake, which was measured at 6.3 on the Richter scale, caused widespread destruction and multiple fatalities in the city centre. There are still frequent aftershocks.

New Zealand is one of our closest allies and there are many close ties between the people of both countries. Around 300,000 British nationals visit New Zealand each year. The New Zealand authorities have confirmed 160 deaths, but this is expected to rise. I understand that at least four British nationals are among the dead. Our High Commission is in contact with the New Zealand police force concerning the formal identification of the deceased. I am unable to rule out further British casualties as the situation develops and more information is made available.

Officials from the British High Commission in Wellington, led by our High Commissioner, were quickly deployed to Christchurch to liaise with the New Zealand authorities and provide consular assistance to British nationals. They have responded to the needs of over 300 British nationals in Christchurch, issued more than 70 emergency passports, made regular visits to hospitals, attended family liaison meetings, kept in close contact with the New Zealand emergency operation centre, and provided consular assistance to the families of British victims. The remaining High Commission staff in Wellington have provided assistance on a 24-hour basis to British nationals arriving from Christchurch, while Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials from the wider region have been deployed to New Zealand to reinforce our efforts.

In response to a request for assistance from the New Zealand Government, we sent a self-sufficient search and rescue team of 63 experts drawn from the British emergency fire and rescue services, including trained paramedics. The UK team are now fully absorbed into the Christchurch search and rescue effort.

In addition, our offer of support in the process of disaster victim identification has been gratefully accepted by the New Zealand authorities. A 10-man team, specially tailored to support the local authorities, has arrived in Christchurch and will provide essential support and expertise in helping to identify any potential British victims and bolster the New Zealand authorities in their wider identification process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

East Caribbean Visa Waiver Test

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final decision under the UK's first global review of visa regimes in relation to two countries in the Eastern Caribbean—Dominica, and St Lucia.

A visa regime is a very effective immigration, crime and security control measure. As part of our overseas defences our visa waiver test helps us determine whether our visa regimes are in the right places. Travellers from every country beyond the European economic area and Switzerland were measured against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns.

In the final stage of the test we worked closely with Dominica and St Lucia whose nationals had been identified as posing a sufficiently high risk as to warrant, in principle, the introduction of a visa requirement for all visitors to the UK.

Work was undertaken over a six-month period to find ways to reduce the risks posed to the UK without the need for a visa requirement. Progress was made with both countries through a combination of advice, training and improved working relations on migration matters.

As a result, Dominica and St Lucia have made concrete improvements to the immigration, border control and identity systems which would not have happened without the test. At the end of this process we assessed the overall progress made by each country, and whether or not it was sufficient to mitigate the risks to the UK.

It has been decided that we will not be introducing new visitor visa requirements at this time for Dominica and St Lucia. We will continue to work with these countries on migration matters and assess the longer-term effectiveness of the actions taken.

Britain will always welcome genuine visitors but will continue to take all steps necessary to protect the border. Should circumstances warrant it, we will re-examine the situation and take prompt action to address any risk to the UK.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 March 2011

TREASURY

Pensions Consultation

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission interim report, led by Lord Hutton of Furness, recommended that the Government undertake a review of the fair deal policy. The Government confirmed their plans to take forward this recommendation at the spending review and have today launched a public consultation.

The Government welcome contributions from all interested groups.

The consultation document has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_fair_deal_policy_publicsector.htm

and will close on 15 June 2011.

Office of Tax Simplification

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government created the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) in July 2010 to provide independent advice on simplifying the tax system.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer asked the OTS to review a list of all reliefs, allowances and exemptions, applying to both businesses and individuals, within the taxes and duties administered by HM Revenue and Customs, and to identify those reliefs that should be repealed or simplified to support the Government's objective for a simpler tax system.

In November 2010 the OTS published a list of all reliefs in the tax system—1,042 in total. Further work narrowed this to 155 reliefs that they have now reviewed in detail.

Today the OTS has published its final report into its review of tax reliefs. It recommends that 45 reliefs be abolished, 17 be simplified and 54 retained in their current form.

The Government will respond to this report at the Budget on 23 March 2011. A copy of the report has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Pension Tax Relief

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): As announced in October, from April 2011 the annual allowance (AA) for tax-privileged pension saving will be reduced from £255,000 to £50,000 and from April 2012 the lifetime allowance will be reduced from £1.8 million to £1.5 million. This is a simpler and fairer approach to making a more sustainable and affordable system of pensions tax relief than the previous Government's complex and damaging proposals. The reduction of these allowances will generate around £4 billion annual revenue in the steady state while preserving incentives to save, and lessening the impact on the ability of UK business to attract and retain talent. This approach has been welcomed by pension and employer groups and the Government have continued to work in consultation with them to finalise the design of the new pensions tax regime.

The Government expect most individuals and employers to adapt their pension saving behaviour to avoid incurring a charge by exceeding the AA, and has put in place measures such as the carry forward of unused allowances to protect individuals further. However, recognising that in some circumstances individuals could still see high charges reflecting significant uplift in pension value in a given year, the Government have consulted on options to enable individuals to meet these charges from their pension benefits.

In line with the strong preference expressed by most respondents, the Government have decided that where AA charges are met from pension benefits, the tax should be paid at the point the charge arises. In effect, schemes will have a considerable amount of time to complete the payment process, with additional flexibility being granted in the first year. Individuals with AA charges above £2,000 will be able to elect for the full liability to be met from their pension benefit. Schemes will be required to operate this facility only where an individual has exceeded the AA outright within that scheme in the relevant year. The Government have given schemes flexibility in how they operate, but is clear that any adjustment to an individual's pension benefit should be fair to all scheme members.

The detailed policy specification has been set out in a summary of responses document and draft clauses on which the Government welcome comment by 17 March. An update to the tax information and impact note has also been made. All documents are available on the Treasury website, and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Disabled Facilities Grant

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today the Department for Communities and Local Government is announcing the local authority allocations for the disabled facilities grant programme in England, making available £180 million, an increase of 11 million the amount allocated for 2010-11. Local authorities are being informed of their individual allocations. Details of the amount awarded to each authority will be available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website and a table detailing the funds provided to individual authorities has been placed in the Library of the House.

The disabled facilities grant programme has been protected within the spending review. The programme helps disabled people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their own homes through the provision of adaptations. Entitlement to a disabled facilities grant is mandatory for eligible disabled people and the grant provides financial assistance for the provision of a wide-range of housing adaptations ranging from stair lifts and level access showers to home extensions. The programme is therefore key in delivering the Government's objective of providing increased levels of care and support to people in their own homes.

The Department for Communities and Local Government wrote to all local authorities in January 2011 to announce a small change to the allocation methodology for the disabled facilities grant for the financial year 2011-12. In 2011-12 there is £180 million available to be distributed as disabled facilities grant to local authorities—an extra £11 million more than was available in 2010-11. All local authorities will, as a minimum, receive what they were allocated in 2010-11. The extra £11 million will then be shared between the local authorities using a relative needs weighted index.

The disabled facilities grant programme has improved the lives of many disabled people including disabled children and helped them avoid the need to leave family homes for specialist housing alternatives.

Olympic Stadium

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): My colleague the Minister for Sport and the Olympics and I have today given our approval to the recommendation of the Olympic Park Legacy Company to select the joint bid from West Ham United football club and the London borough of Newham as the preferred bidder for the legacy use of the Olympic stadium. We are therefore writing to the company informing it of our decisions as its joint Government founder members. The Mayor of London, as the other founder member of the company, will also write separately.

This completes the first stage of this process and means that the Olympic Park Legacy Company is now able to enter into negotiations with the consortium comprising West Ham United football club and the London borough of Newham to agree a lease for the Olympic stadium site on terms that are acceptable to Government and the Mayor of London and provide value for money to the public sector. We are delighted with the progress that has been made and very pleased we have reached this very significant milestone in determining the long-term legacy for the Olympic park following the games.

EDUCATION

Vocational Education (Wolf Review)

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): High-quality vocational education is crucial to enabling social mobility, generating growth and making opportunity more equal for all young people.

Sadly, the system we have inherited means that too many existing vocational qualifications are of poor quality or are offered inappropriately to young people. Too many young people are studying courses that do not enable them to progress.

It is essential, therefore, that we ensure the vocational routes offered to young people are high quality and are recognised by employers and further and higher education.

Professor Wolf's recommendations will help us to do just that. They have set a clear direction of travel that will lead to a real and sustained improvement in the vocational education on offer to young people in this country.

She highlights how the system is failing hundreds of thousands of young people and says:

> 350,000 students aged 16 to 19 are on programmes which score well in league tables but do not lead to higher education or stable paid employment;
>
> high-quality apprenticeships are too rare and a decreasing proportion are being offered to teenagers;
>
> examples of good quality, innovation and success in vocational education today are achieved in spite of the current funding and regulatory system and not because of it.

Professor Wolf's recommendations shift 14 to19 vocational education away from the

> "expensive, centralised and over-detailed approach that has been the hallmark of the last two decades".

Instead she says England should move towards the systems favoured by the best providers of vocational education—Denmark, France and Germany, which delegate a large amount of decision-making and design to a local level.

Professor Wolf says society has

> "no business placing 14-year-olds in tracks which they cannot leave",

and says options for all young people must be kept open. She suggests that 14 to16-year-olds should spend at least 80% of their learning time on a broad academic "core". This is in line with the best models of vocational education in Europe, which delay specialisation until post-16.

We will immediately accept four recommendations:

> to allow further education lecturers to teach in school classrooms on the same basis as qualified teachers;
>
> to clarify the rules on allowing industry professionals to teach in schools;
>
> to allow any vocational qualification offered by a regulated awarding body to be taken by 14 to 19-year-olds;
>
> slash the red tape to temporarily allow high-quality, established vocational qualifications, which are valued by employers, to be offered in schools and colleges from September.

We will now consider how best to implement Professor Wolf's remaining recommendations. These include:

> anyone who fails to achieve a good pass in GCSE English or maths must continue to study those subjects post-16. Currently less than half of all students fail to get an A* to C pass at GCSE;
>
> the Government should increase continuing professional development (CPD) for mathematics teachers, especially post-16;
>
> the removal of the perverse incentives, created by both the funding system and performance tables, to enter students for numerous low-quality qualifications. Higher quality courses should have higher scores in performance tables than "dead-end" ones, and funding should be per pupil not per qualification;

> employers should be subsidised if they offer 16 to 18-year-old apprentices high-quality, off-the-job training, and an education with broad transferable elements;
>
> scrapping the duty on colleges and schools to provide every 14 to 16-year-old with work-related learning. Longer internships for older students should be prioritised instead;
>
> employers should be more involved in local colleges to ensure vocational qualifications valued by business are offered to students and are taught to industry standards;
>
> promote the right of under 16s to be enrolled in colleges so they can benefit from high-quality vocational training available there, in creative arts, commerce or catering.

We will publish a full Government response to Professor Wolf's report shortly.

Copies of the Wolf review of vocational education will be placed in the House Library.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Libya: Consular Response

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt): I wish to update the House on the efforts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made to help British nationals depart Libya.

As the Prime Minister reported to this House on Monday 28 February 2011, more than 600 British nationals have been evacuated from Libya on UK-provided flights and ships. Many others have been able to leave Libya through a variety of other means. I am pleased to report that since then 11 British nationals were able to leave Benghazi on board HMS York on 2 March. We have also assisted in the evacuation of 43 different nationalities, including French, US, Canadian and New Zealand citizens.

Evacuation

Six chartered aircraft, organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and an RAF C130 Hercules flight have brought out from Tripoli airport around 400 British nationals and 360 EU and other nationals.

HMS Cumberland made two voyages to Benghazi and evacuated 119 UK citizens and 303 EU and other citizens. HMS York has made one voyage to Benghazi and has evacuated another 11 UK and 32 EU and other citizens.

On Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 February RAF C130s were deployed in order to evacuate UK oil workers from the desert, and 95 British nationals and around 270 foreign nationals were evacuated.

Only a very few UK citizens remain in Libya who have asked to be evacuated. We are helping them to access the various evacuation options which remain. There are a number of other UK citizens who currently have chosen to stay in Libya. A significant number of these are dual nationals. Clearly these figures can change. We will continue to do all we can to ensure that those who wish to leave can do so.

For those who are evacuated to Valletta, in Malta, the FCO has arranged, for those who want it, onward transfer to the UK by charter flight or using existing commercial means.

All of these evacuations have been supported by staff reinforcements from within the region, as well as five rapid deployment teams.

The operations of the UK embassy were temporarily suspended on Saturday 26 February and since then our representation has been undertaken by the Turkish embassy in Tripoli. A locally employed UK vice-consul is currently working with them.

I would like to put on record the UK's appreciation for all the support provided by our allies and partners during this difficult time and in particular the Turkish Government and the Government and people of Malta.

Consular Operation

This has been a consular crisis effort on an unprecedented scale. We have worked tirelessly to overcome the physical and logistical difficulties of co-ordinating the evacuation of hundreds of British nationals from a vast country and after the breakdown of law and order. Working with colleagues from across Government, most notably the Ministry of Defence and the United Kingdom Border Agency, FCO staff have been working round the clock to help bring home British nationals in Libya.

In total, since 21 February, more than 350 FCO staff have joined the consular and political efforts, including over 50 who were deployed to Libya or Valletta to work alongside our embassy teams. Of these, the majority have stepped forward as volunteers to ramp up our overall capacity and support their colleagues. They have done so above and beyond their normal day jobs.

As events in the middle east continue to develop, I wish to pay tribute to the determination and commitment of FCO staff to assist British citizens wherever they are in the world.

So long as British nationals remain in Libya, Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff stand ready to assist them.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Age Discrimination

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): The Government are today publishing a consultation document containing a draft order setting out proposed exceptions to a ban on age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services, the exercise of public functions and the activities of private clubs and other associations.

The Government are committed to tackling harmful age discrimination. Our society is changing as people live longer, and it is important to ensure that people of all ages are treated fairly when, for example, receiving healthcare or trying to buy insurance.

The Equality Act 2010 contains a ban on age discrimination in the provision of services, the exercise of public functions and by associations. Before we implement the ban, we want to make sure that the new law:

> does not prevent service providers treating people of various ages differently when there are beneficial or justifiable reasons for doing so: for example, through the offering of age-based

> concessions, such as free bus passes or cheaper rates at leisure centres to the over-65's and students;
>
> takes into account how people of different ages live and their different needs; and
>
> takes into account how businesses and other organisations operate in order to avoid disproportionate burdens and unintended consequences.

The consultation published today, "Equality Act 2010: Banning age discrimination in services, public functions and associations—A consultation on proposed exceptions to the ban", sets out those areas where we believe that different treatment of people of various ages is justified, and proposes how the legislation will be drafted to take account of these.

One area where age-based decisions can be justified is financial services—providers will still be permitted to make decisions and set charges based on an individual's age, if such a policy is reasonable and based on reliable evidence about risk.

The consultation is also very clear that there will be no specific exceptions to the ban on age discrimination for the health and social care sectors. Any use of age in decision-making within the NHS and in social care will, if challenged, need to be objectively justified. This approach has been informed by extensive work with health and social care organisations and professionals, user groups and others with an interest in this issue. Our aim is to eradicate harmful discrimination, while at the same time allowing service providers to continue to treat people of different ages differently where this is beneficial or justifiable. When services deal with individuals, they should therefore continue to focus on the individual, taking account of his or her age where it is appropriate to do so.

The consultation runs from 3 March 2011 to 25 May 2011.

I will place copies of the consultation document in the Libraries of both Houses and in the Vote Office. It has also been published on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held on 24 and 25 February in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice, Lord McNally, and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The interior day began with the Council adopting the 'A' points list. This included the adoption of the draft Council conclusions on the effective implementation of the charter of fundamental rights of the European Union. The conclusions set out how the Council will ensure that the charter is reflected accurately in future EU legislation.

The Council also adopted Council conclusions on the Commission's communication on a comprehensive approach to personal data protection in the European Union. The conclusions set out the Council's views on the general principles arising from the communication and do not prejudice the need for careful and detailed consideration of any legislative proposals.

After the adoption of the 'A' points list, the Council, in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states), received an update from the Commission on the go-live date for the Visa Information System (VIS) regulation. The Commission said preparations at border crossings and consular posts in the first-phase region (north Africa) appeared on track. VIS would only go live once all consular staff there had been trained but current developments in the region could adversely influence this. They expected the April JHA Council would decide on a start date. The UK does not participate in VIS.

The Commission provided its regular update on the delivery of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) central system and stressed the importance of member state participation through the testing phases.

Frontex presented its annual work programme (AWP) for 2011 to the Council. The Frontex executive director said core objectives for 2011 were to enhance flexibility to respond to emerging situations, earlier detection of crime at external borders, and enhancing inter-agency co-operation and interoperability. The main challenge would be increasing effectiveness with decreasing resources. He mentioned that pledges so far had only met 50% of requirements for the post rapid border intervention team operation on the Greece-Turkey border. Frontex warned that progress could be put at risk. The Commission agreed and called for swift adoption of the new regulation.

The presidency gave an overview of Romanian and Bulgarian accession to Schengen and introduced its proposal for conclusions. While the technical evaluation process for Romania had been completed, Bulgaria required a further visit to its land border. The presidency acknowledged wider concerns expressed by some member states, but sought to avoid political discussion concluding that there was support for the conclusions.

The Commission gave an update on visa liberalisation road maps for the western Balkan countries, noting that abuses did have to be addressed and confirming they were looking into the possibility of a suspension mechanism that would not target specific counties or regions. Proposals would be brought forward in June.

Under Mixed Committee AOB, the Council received an update on the EU-Canada visa situation and noted an information-gathering visit had taken place at the end of January. Preliminary findings suggested no problems with the way Roma communities were treated. The report will be published in April.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Antonio Guterres, used his presentation to urge member states to ratify the convention relating to the status of refugees and to increase their support for capacity building in the developing world. On the current situation in north Africa, he highlighted that the majority of arrivals to the EU were mainly economic migrants, but he warned member states to be prepared for a potentially massive flow from Libya. He asked member states to consider using the temporary protection directive but advised that the present situation should not distract attention from the significant structural problems with the EU asylum system, and particularly with Greece. The EU's next financial perspective had to rise to the challenges of protection both outside and inside the EU. The UK welcomed the UNHCR's work to help member states improve their asylum systems, and highlighted the close UK co-operation on resettlement and the quality initiative. The UK stated that although it did not always agree with the UNHCR on legislative solutions, it was essential to work together to ensure that real practical action happened on the ground, and to reinforce levels of protection in the region. The Commission said we were at a crucial moment and had a duty of solidarity to member states facing particular burdens. Protection in developing countries through regional protection programmes was important, and they urged the presidency to make progress on the EU resettlement programme.

There was also a presentation by Rob Visser, the newly appointed executive director of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), who explained that the support office was already operational (before the 19 June deadline mentioned in the regulation). Providing support to Greece for the action plan was the top priority. Member states urged Greece to speed up its asylum reforms and called on the Commission to improve co-ordination of member state offers of assistance. The Commission was already providing co-ordination and would soon hand this over to EASO. On Dublin, the emergency mechanism would not apply in this situation; it was only proposed for member states fully implementing the asylum acquis.

The draft text of the EU-Turkey readmission agreement was presented alongside Council conclusions on visa liberalisation. The UK welcomed the text and called for its swift conclusion and implementation. Given the high level of transit migration through Turkey and into the EU, co-operation with Turkey was important to all member states. Although there were sensitive issues at stake, it made sense for member states to agree the text; further delay could result in no agreement being signed. Thanking the Commission for its declaration on territorial application, the UK submitted declarations relating to the application of the Title V opt-in protocol to future measures and stated that the Commission should act within its competence when undertaking, a dialogue on visas, mobility and migration with Turkey. The Council discussed the substance of the conclusions and a declaration was inserted at the end of the conclusions stating

> "The Commission acknowledges that the last indent of the Council Conclusions does not legally constitute a negotiating mandate".

The Commission concluded that it now approach Turkey to initial the readmission agreement.

During lunch Interior Ministers discussed the developments in the north African region (migratory flows and internal security). The UK pushed for a focus on practical responses. In the press conference after the Council, the Commission and presidency were careful to emphasise the difference between the existing situation (5,000 Tunisians who had arrived in Italy were largely economic migrants who should be returned) and the potential threat from instability in Libya. The Commission emphasised the need to strengthen protection in Tunisia and Egypt, for those already crossing the borders. Ministers had not considered invoking the temporary protection directive, but the Commission said it did form part of the toolbox. Article 78(3) of the treaty also enabled them to propose emergency measures including exceptional financial support to help member states receiving a mass influx. The next steps will depend on how the situation develops. The next planned discussion will be at the March European Council.

The Internal Security Council conclusions were adopted without amendment.

The Council did not discuss the Commission evaluation into EU readmission agreements, the new directive on passenger name records or remaining AOB items due to time constraints. The communication on EU readmission agreements will be discussed at working party level in March and depending on the outcome of these discussions the presidency will present draft Council conclusions to the April JHA Council. Passenger name records will be discussed by working groups in March and a substantive discussion will be held at the April JHA Council.

The justice day commenced with a discussion on the directive on attacks against information systems which demonstrated differences of view on whether to include use of false identity as an aggravating circumstance and the value of increasing sanctions. The presidency said they wanted the Council of Europe's 2001 cybercrime convention to become the international benchmark and encouraged those who had not ratified to do so, noting there would be a conference on the 10th anniversary of the convention for signatories, including the USA, on 10-13 April. The UK thanked the presidency for leadership on this issue and highlighted concerns about the handling of identity theft in the text; the UK sought more discussion of the issue at expert level. It also noted the firm commitment of the Government to ratify the cybercrime convention this year. The Commission indicated openness to solutions to deal with concerns expressed and noted they would bring forward a communication on critical infrastructure protection in 2012.

Next, the Commission presented its proposal to revise the regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (known as Brussels I). The regulation lays down rules governing the jurisdiction of courts and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters in the member states of the European Union (EU). The objective of the revision of Brussels I is to update and improve the operation of the regulation by addressing certain problems that have arisen with the current measure since its implementation. The Government generally support this objective and are currently considering the detail of the proposal and the results of the Government's consultation in order to determine whether or not to opt in to the negotiations.

The presidency gave a state-of-play report on the directive on the right to information in criminal proceedings. This proposal is the second measure in the road map to strengthen procedural rights in criminal proceedings and it aims to set common minimum standards and improve the rights of suspects and accused persons by ensuring that they receive information about their rights and about the accusation and evidence against them. Although a date has yet to be identified for the trilogue discussions, the Hungarians hope to reach a first reading deal before the end of their presidency. The Government noted the presidency's report.

Next, the Council adopted Council conclusions on the inclusion of the website of the European judicial network in civil and commercial matters (civil EJN) in the e-justice portal. The website of the civil EJN has existed since 2001 providing information on the laws and procedures on a number of topics in each member state. The presidency and Commission highlighted the migration was an important step forward in securing a single online access point for justice issues for citizens.

Under any other business, the Council took note of a report by the Commission on the memory of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes in Europe. The report presents, among other things, how the EU can play a meaningful role in the process of preserving the memory of totalitarian regimes and that there are a number of ways of maintaining that including through funding mechanisms. It also underlines that there are different national measures in place and therefore, the Commission currently has no plans to introduce EU-wide legislation on the subject. The Government agreed the importance of recalling the crimes committed by totalitarian states and welcomed the Commission's report.

Ministers also received an update from the Commission on the subject of collective redress. The Commission informed Ministers that it had launched a public consultation on the issue and that by the end of 2011, a communication would be published. The Government welcome this consultation and have yet to make their response to it.

Finally, at the request of Slovakia, Ministers considered the rights of EU citizens as regards the enforcement of court decisions in third countries concerning custody laws, in particular, in cases of mixed marriages and parental child abduction. Slovakia stated that the EU should explore ways of improving co-operation with third countries on international custody disputes. The Government supported the Slovakian proposal.

JUSTICE

Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am pleased to announce the Government's intention to commence section 53 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 with effect from 1 October 2011. Section 53 enables judicial review applications in "fresh claim" asylum and immigration human rights cases to be heard in the Upper Tribunal.

Currently, judicial review applications cannot be transferred from the High Court or Court of Session to the Upper Tribunal if they call into question decisions made under the Immigration Acts. The commencement of section 53 will allow the transfer of judicial review applications relating to a refusal of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to treat representations as a "fresh claim" in asylum and immigration human rights cases.

One of the conditions to enable the High Court in England and Wales to transfer a case to the Upper Tribunal is that the application falls within a class specified by the Lord Chief Justice under section 18 (6) of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. I understand that, following the commencement of section 53, the Lord Chief Justice is minded to make such a direction in respect of this class of judicial review application.

I also understand that while there are no immediate plans to transfer these cases to the Upper Tribunal in respect of Scotland or Northern Ireland, commencement of section 53 would allow that to happen at some point in the future should the Lord President and the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland deem this to be appropriate. I understand that the Lord President has indicated that further consultation will be required in Scotland in relation to this matter.

The transfer of these judicial reviews will enable fresh claim asylum and immigration human rights applications to be dealt with by judicial members of the Upper Tribunal who have specialist skills and experience in asylum and immigration cases and will also relieve workload pressure on the High Court, freeing up judicial time to address the high volumes of other types of cases heard in the High Court.

I understand that the Tribunals Procedure Committee is currently considering whether any amendments will be required to the Upper Tribunal Procedure Rules to reflect this change and that it may decide to undertake public consultation on this matter in due course.

TRANSPORT

Airport Economic Regulation

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): In the Queen's speech the Government announced their intention to reform the framework for the economic regulation of airports. Today I am announcing that legislation to implement these reforms will be introduced early in the next session.

Reforming the framework for airport economic regulation will help improve the quality of service that passengers receive at designated airports and contribute positively to economic growth.

As I set out in my statement to the House on 21 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 20-22WS, we plan to replace the existing statutory framework for regulation at designated airports with a more flexible licence-based system. This will give the CAA the powers it needs to become a more responsive regulator, for example to deal with events such as the severe weather this winter. The reforms will also strip out unnecessary regulation and support passenger-focused investment in existing airport infrastructure.

I am keen to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the new regime and we will work with the CAA and industry to achieve this. In particular, the Government will not be making changes to the basis on which the current price caps at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted are set.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cheque Replacement and Financial Inclusion

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): Since taking office the coalition Government have been working to reform the welfare system, providing a fairer deal for customers and taxpayers alike.

Well over 98% of all benefit customers are now paid directly into an account. But there is a relatively small number who cannot be paid into an account of any kind or who choose not to be. These customers currently receive their welfare payments by cheque and in total this amounts to fewer than 250,000 people in the UK.

Welfare cheques have become outdated, costly and too open to fraud. As a result, and in light of wider changes in the financial world, the previous Government set the terms of and invited bids on a procurement for a product to replace this payment method.

Following a competitive bidding process I can announce today that Citibank, working in partnership with PayPoint, will be awarded a seven-year contract to provide the new service that will replace the current girocheque service. The contract value is estimated to be a total of £20 million per year, shared between the two providers.

This new service will be free of charge to customers and accessible over the counter at PayPoint outlets. PayPoint outlets are already serving many of our customers and can be found in newsagents, community stores, and other local outlets.

DWP will ensure customers are moved across to the new payment method as seamlessly as possible. Information and advice will be made available so that customers know what will happen and when the change will take place.

Customers will still be able to collect their cash from the Post Office if this is important to them, either by switching to the Post Office card account or by using one of the many commercial bank accounts that are accessible at Post Office branches.

This Department values its relationship with the Post Office and we are working closely with them as we design the delivery of our future services. In particular we are setting up three pilots in partnership with the Post Office: verifying identity as part of the national insurance application process; support for those jobseekers who live in more rural areas, and verification of supporting documents such as birth and marriage certificates for customers of the pension service.

In addition, this Department will continue to work with the Post Office to explore further opportunities for them to support new ways of delivering welfare, including playing an important role in supporting the delivery of universal credit—building on the work on pilots already underway.

We also see real opportunities for the Post Office network in building closer links with credit unions. Credit unions have made great progress in recent years in bringing affordable financial services to people who would not otherwise be able to access them. I want to see credit unions—in partnership with the Post Office—providing more services, more efficiently, to more people.

I am therefore pleased to announce this Department's continuing support for credit unions, building on the existing growth fund, and providing the new funding required for further expansion. This modernisation fund, worth up to £73 million over the next four years, will support those credit unions who are ready and prepared to step up to the plate—to expand their service to benefit more customers.

My Department will work with the credit unions to look at ways in which the future progress of this sector can best be supported. This includes the possible development of a shared banking platform, for which funding has already been set aside. Subject to successful feasibility studies, this will open up opportunities for many more people to access credit union services, including through the Post Office network.

Making credit union services available to more people who could benefit from them is an important part of our welfare reforms: making work pay; reforming crisis loans; making people better off for every pound they earn through universal credit; and simplifying the benefits system.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 7 March 2011 in Brussels. I will represent the United Kingdom on all agenda items.

There will be two policy debates at this meeting. The first discussion will focus on the EPSCO contribution to the European Council on issues relating to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, the European semester and the annual growth survey. The presidency will present for adoption the first joint employment report under the new European semester process together with Council conclusions that draw on the main messages from the report and the employment guidelines. The UK will stress the importance that employment policies have been given within the context of the annual growth survey and in particular the emphasis on activation policies for the unemployed and inactive. The Council will also adopt the opinion of the Social Protection Committee on the flagship initiative and its report on the assessment of the social dimension of Europe 2020. Finally the presidency will present information on the preparations for the tripartite social summit, due to take place before the spring European Council.

The second discussion will be on the pensions Green Paper. The Commission will present a progress note on the analysis of the Green Paper responses. The UK will emphasise the importance of this issue but highlight the need to avoid imposition of insolvency requirements for pensions, particularly on grounds of costs and regulatory burden.

The Commission will present its annual report on "progress on equality between women and men during 2010". The report acknowledges areas where progress has been made, both at national and European level.

Ministers will consider a number of other Council conclusions. These cover a European framework for social and territorial cohesion, the further development of an electronic exchange system facilitating the administrative co-operation in the framework of the posting of workers directive, and the European pact for gender equality (2011-2020).

Under any other business, the presidency will report on the informal meeting of the Ministers for employment, and will also provide an update on two legislative areas, "seasonal workers" and "intra-corporate transferees". The Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee chairs will provide information on their work programmes for 2011, and there will also be a presentation from the French delegation on plans for their G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting, which will take place in September 2011.

Social Fund Crisis Loans

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): To meet genuine need, and in addition to continually recycling from the £1.3 billion fund, this Government are committed to maintaining core funding of £178 million a year for the discretionary social fund scheme over the spending review period.

However, since the introduction of remote telephone applications in 2006, there has been an unjustifiable growth in the use of crisis loans. The number of awards made has increased from around 1 million to 2.7 million while spending has almost tripled, reaching £233 million in 2009-10. In the last 12 months alone, over 17,000 people received 10 or more crisis loans.

On current forecasts, the resources for 2011-12 will only satisfy two-thirds of expected demand. Without corrective action to bring spending back under control the shortfall would need to be met from the budgeting loan scheme.

The situation is unsustainable, so I am announcing the introduction of three changes to the crisis loan system, to rebalance supply with affordable resources, to ensure funding for community care grants is protected, and to ensure we can continue to make budgeting loans throughout the year.

From 4 April 2011:

we will no longer pay crisis loans for items such as cookers and beds. There will be residual support for people following a disaster such as flooding;

we will reduce the rate paid for living expenses from 75% down to 60% of benefit rate. This will align with the position for jobseekers allowance cases paid at the hardship rate; and

we will implement a cap of three crisis loan awards for general living expenses in a rolling 12-month period.

Without these measures budgeting loans would need to be withdrawn before Christmas. This would leave significant numbers of people on low incomes with little alternative but to turn to high cost or illegal lending.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 4 March 2011

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Political and Constitutional Reform Committee's Report (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The Political and Constitutional Reform Committee published its report on the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on 7 October 2010. I am pleased to inform the House that I have today laid the Government's response to the Committee's report as a Command Paper (Cm 7997). Copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): In my statement of 16 December, *Official Report*, column 120-21 WS, I promised to keep the House informed of the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) progress towards its 2010 single payment scheme (SPS) payment targets set by the previous Government.

The first target, to make payments to 85% of eligible claimants by the end of December 2010, was met with 85.5% of the eligible population paid at that date. The second target is to pay 95% of the total value of eligible payments by the end of March 2011. As I made clear in my earlier statements, this target is particularly challenging given the legacy of system and data problems that need to be corrected before accurate payments can be made.

The previous years' achievement of targets has been at the expense of accuracy resulting in EU fines (disallowance) and a massive backlog of cases where it is believed overpayments or underpayments have been made.

The RPA oversight board which I chair decided that this state of affairs could not continue. It therefore decided to ensure the RPA makes full use of all options open to us to reduce the backlog of error cases by not pursuing those where the farmer could not reasonably have been expected to identify an error. Nevertheless there remains a substantial backlog of cases which need to be reviewed for potential errors. The board also set a priority to ensure that this year's payments are accurate so that a line can be drawn under past failures and farmers will know their precise entitlements going forward.

Given the complexity of the existing systems and the inadequacy of the IT systems, speeding up payments is not simply a matter of increasing resources. In the last six months some 140 "fixes" have been made to the IT system which now allows us to be more confident in the accuracy, but does not significantly speed up the process.

The consequence of that, I regret to inform the House, is that the RPA will not achieve the target of paying 95% of claims by value by 31 March 2011. The estimated figure will be nearer to 90%.

We are therefore looking at the possibility of making manually validated payments to those who would otherwise be unlikely to be paid on the system before 30 June. However we need first to ensure that such payments would meet the required standard of accuracy in order to avoid further EU fines (disallowance).

I am very conscious that for many, if not all, farmers the further potential delays could involve considerable hardship or costs. We already make manual payments to hardship cases referred to us by farming charities and representative bodies. However if the RPA is finally to put the legacy of chaos, errors and disallowances behind it we need to ensure that payments made this year are based on accurate data so that we can move forward.

I met with the RPA chief executive and farming industry representatives to discuss this earlier this week. The representatives were told of the situation and have asked us to give urgent consideration to making partial payments to those farmers who are not likely to be paid soon. I have undertaken to examine this option and will continue to keep the House informed.

HEALTH

Learning Disabilities (Government Support)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I am today making a number of announcements confirming continued Government support to help improve the health and lives of people with learning disabilities.

The Department has today decided to extend its existing contract with the University of Bristol Norah Fry research centre (Norah Fry) for a further two years to March 2013 to carry out a time-limited confidential inquiry into premature and avoidable deaths of people with learning disabilities.

In parallel, I can confirm the Department has decided to continue to support for a further two years to March 2013 the provision of a time-limited public health observatory (PHO) service in relation to the health and health care needs of people with learning disabilities. This service is currently hosted by the North-East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO).

I am writing separately to the project teams at Norah Fry and NEPHO to confirm the extension of their work with the Department, and the funding arrangements going forward, so they can plan accordingly.

I can also confirm I wrote separately on Monday 21 February 2011 to the chairs of the National Forum of People with Learning Difficulties, and the National Valuing Families Forum, to confirm continued funding by the Department for their work in 2011-12.

In addition, I can advise that the Department published on 1 March 2011 an updated version of its handbook "Positive Practice Positive Outcomes: A Handbook for

Professionals in the Criminal Justice System working with Learning Disabled Offenders". The handbook originally dates from 2007 and now reflects recent developments in the field. The handbook has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

The Department is also preparing publication later this month of a suite of practical tools and materials that will help local authorities and other partners drive employment for people with learning disabilities.

All of this demonstrates the Government's ongoing commitment to maintain momentum in delivering improved life outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

My announcements today on the inquiry and PHO service follow an open competitive procurement process in 2009-10 that resulted in contracts being awarded on 23 March 2010 to Norah Fry to run the inquiry; and NEPHO, leading a partnership involving the Centre for Disability Research at Lancaster University, and the National Development Team for Inclusion, to provide the PHO service.

Both these contracts were originally awarded for an initial period of 12 months, with the intention to extend them for a further two years until March 2013, subject to satisfactory evaluation of the work carried out in the first year and availability of funds. They took forward the Department's commitment to implement the recommendations in the report of the independent inquiry headed by Sir Jonathan Michael into access to health care for people with learning disabilities "Healthcare for All" to establish a learning disabilities inquiry and PHO.

National Health Service Charges

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): Regulations have been laid before Parliament to increase certain national health service charges in England from 1 April 2011.

There will be an increase in the prescription charge of 20p from £7.20 to £7.40 for each quantity of a drug or appliance dispensed.

The cost of a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) will rise to £29.10 for a three-month certificate. The cost of the annual certificate will remain at £104. PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months or more than 14 items in one year.

Regulations have also been laid to increase NHS dental charges from 1 April 2011. The dental charge payable for a band 1 course of treatment will increase by 50p from £16.50 to £17. The dental charge for a band 2 course of treatment will increase by £1.40 from £45.60 to £47. The charge for a band 3 course of treatment will increase by £6 from £198 to £204.

Dental charges represent an important contribution to the overall cost of dental services. The exact amount raised will be dependent upon the level and type of primary dental care services commissioned by primary care trusts and the proportion of charge-paying patients who attend dentists and the level of treatment they require.

Charges for elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports supplied by hospitals will be also be increased.

The range of NHS optical vouchers available to children, people on low incomes and individuals with complex sight problems to help with the purchase of glasses remains unchanged in 2011-12.

Details of the revised charges are as follows:

NHS Charges - England

	New Charge (£)
Prescription charges	
Single item	7.40
3-month PPC	29.10
12-month PPC	104.00
Wigs and Fabric Supports	
Surgical brassiere	25.10
Abdominal or spinal support	37.90
Stock modacrylic wig	61.85
Partial human hair wig	163.80
Full bespoke human hair wig	239.65
Dental Charges	
Band 1 course of treatment	17.00
Band 2 course of treatment	47.00
Band 3 course of treatment	204.00

Voucher values continue at the rates effective since 1 April 2009, which are:

Optical voucher values from 1 April 2011

Type of optical appliance	*Value*
A. *Glasses with single vision lenses:* spherical power of ≤ 6 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 2 dioptres.	£36.20
B. *Glasses with single vision lenses:* spherical power of > 6 dioptres but < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres; spherical power of < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of > 2 dioptres but ≤ 6 dioptres.	£55.10
C. *Glasses with single vision lenses:* spherical power of ≥ 10 dioptres but ≤ 14 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres.	£80.60
D. *Glasses with single vision lenses:* spherical power of > 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; cylindrical power of > 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£182.00
E. *Glasses with bifocal lenses:* spherical power of ≤ 6 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 2 dioptres.	£62.70
F. *Glasses with bifocal lenses:* spherical power of > 6 dioptres but < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of < 6 dioptres; spherical power of < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of > 2 dioptres but ≤ 6 dioptres.	£79.70
G. *Glasses with bifocal lenses:* spherical power of ≥ 10 dioptres but ≤ 14 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres.	£103.30
H. *Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses*: spherical power of > 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; cylindrical power of > 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£200.10
I. (HES) Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs A to H above for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust.	£186.40

SCOTLAND

Scotland Bill (Scottish Parliament Committee Report)

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): On behalf of the Government I welcome the publication on Thursday 3 March 2011 of the report of the Scotland Bill Committee in the Scottish Parliament.

The Committee was established by the Scottish Parliament in December 2010 to review the Scotland Bill, introduced in this Parliament on 30 November 2010.

The Scotland Bill delivers the Government's coalition commitment to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution. The commission was originally established by the Scottish Parliament and supported by the then UK Government with its remit as:

> "To review the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 in the light of experience and to recommend any changes to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament, and continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom."

The Commission, under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, produced a detailed and well-evidenced report, which was welcomed by the main UK-wide parties and those who contributed, cross-party groups, unions, businesses and civil society. This Government made an early commitment to deliver the commission's recommendations in the Queen's Speech after the 2010 general election.

The Scotland Bill and the Command Paper "Strengthening Scotland's Future" (Cm 7973) published alongside the Bill, provided the Government's response to the commission's recommendations. The package of measures included in the Bill build on the success of Scottish devolution since 1999, strengthen the settlement, empower the members of the Scottish Parliament and in particular increase the financial accountability of this institution.

Under the terms of the Sewel convention—the convention established since devolution that the UK Parliament will not normally legislate on devolved matters without the consent of the Scottish Parliament—the Scottish Parliament established a committee to review the measures within the Bill. This committee, under its convenor Wendy Alexander, has thoroughly assessed the Bill, drawing upon expertise from witnesses covering the whole range of topics included within the Bill.

I am delighted that today the committee in the Scottish Parliament has published their report on the Bill. The Government warmly welcome this report, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The first and main conclusion of the committee is that the Scottish Parliament should support the Scotland Bill. We welcome this clear endorsement of the Bill and will now take the opportunity to consider carefully the recommendations included in the report.

We will respond to the views expressed by the Scottish Parliament, as well as the views of both Houses of Parliament, as we take the Scotland Bill through its remaining stages. I look forward to the plenary vote in the Scottish Parliament on the Scotland Bill next week.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 7 March 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): The public bodies review (20 October 2010) concluded that the functions of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) should be transferred to the relevant local authority or other London bodies. I am today announcing the first stage of that localisation. From 1 April 2011, LTGDC's planning functions in the London riverside area will be returned to the London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, and for part of Newham. This important first step towards complete localisation will be effected by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (Planning Functions) (Amendment) Order 2011 which I am laying before Parliament today. The order reflects the coalition commitment to cutting the costs of quangos and increasing accountability, and also chimes with our approach to the Thames Gateway generally, where we have decentralised strategic oversight to local political leaders.

I expect further transfers of functions will take place during 2012.

Review of Statutory Duties

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I am today announcing a comprehensive review of the statutory duties placed on local authorities by central Government. This is a further step in the drive to remove centrally imposed prescription and burdens and free councils up to meet the needs of their communities.

Central Government are committed to taking a proactive role to identifying and removing bureaucratic burdens and barriers that stifle local decision making. We have already freed local authorities from thousands of targets, ended the costly inspection regime and announced work to streamline central data requirements. We now need to be clear about the cumulative demands centrally prescribed duties place on local authorities and consider carefully whether they can continue to be justified.

Review of Statutory Duties on local government

Historically central Government have been prescriptive about how councils should serve their communities and many functions councils undertake have legal duties attached to them, set out in numerous Acts of Parliament.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will lead a comprehensive review of statutory duties with the aim of determining which duties actually support councils in carrying out their functions and which ones serve to create unnecessary burdens and should be removed.

A draft list of over 1,200 duties stemming from primary legislation that Departments across Whitehall are responsible for will be available online today at http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/. We aim to build the list further with contributions, comment and challenge from local government and the public. The House will be kept informed of progress.

I have placed copies of the initial lists of duties placed on local government both by my Department and by other Government Departments in the Library of the House.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Council (28 February 2011)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 28 February.

The Council began with a report by the Commission on the progress of negotiations in the Council working group on the proposed regulation on energy market integrity and transparency. The European Council had given a mandate for rapid completion of the dossier, which is essential for setting the rules of energy commodity trading in the EU.

The Council then adopted Council conclusions on the "Energy 2020" strategy and the communication on energy infrastructure priorities. Commissioner Oettinger summarised the content of the conclusions and highlighted the need for specific actions on 2050 work, including in particular support for infrastructure investment, energy efficiency, and the need to consider how the next financial perspective can best support the transition to 2050.

The main focus of the Council was a discussion of energy efficiency and renewables to contribute to the EU semester exercise (a new EU initiative to improve economic policy co-ordination). The EU semester process will be considered by the spring European Council later this month. Commissioner Oettinger noted the positive impact that energy efficiency and renewables could have on EU industry. Most Ministers supported the Commission's approach and agreed on the importance of energy efficiency. I noted that the forthcoming energy efficiency action plan should focus on those areas where action is best taken at EU level or where there is direct added-value in co-operative efforts.

The Commissioner also updated the Council on the recent communication on the implementation of the renewables directive and on the southern corridor, where he said that he would present a long-term strategy to the Council in the second half of 2011. I noted the UK's support for the idea of the southern corridor but the importance that any strategic work should not delay the commercial development of Azeri gas.

Over lunch, there was a discussion of north Africa and oil prices, and the internal energy market.

The Energy Council, as the formation of the Council in session, adopted a decision implementing the UN Security Council Resolution imposing sanctions on Libya.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Strengthening Women's Voices in Government

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): In December 2010 the coalition Government published its equality strategy "Building a Fairer Britain". In it we set out two principles: equal treatment and equal opportunity. We committed to devolving power and control to citizens and local communities; giving them more choice and control over their lives and to promote greater participation in public life.

We also committed to reforming the institutions that currently exist to help Government develop and promote its equality policies and legislation. Following the review of public bodies we decided that the functions of the Women's National Commission (WNC) which had the role of bringing women's voices to Government should be brought back within Government. The WNC closed in December 2010.

Today I am publishing a consultation on "Strengthening Women's Voices in Government" which sets out our proposals for a new approach to engaging and listening to women, and invites views and feedback on those proposals.

This new approach will modernise the way we engage with women in the UK to ensure that we maintain an effective dialogue about the key issues of concern to women of all ages and backgrounds in the UK today. It will transform the way in which their voices are brought to Government, delivering an engagement framework which is direct, inclusive and transparent, and which is, in principle and by design, open to all—individual women, grass roots and local community organisations as well as regional and national women's organisations and wider organisations working on issues in which women have a key interest.

Copies of "Strengthening Women's Voices in Government" will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and in the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Olympic Airspace

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): As part of the commitment to deliver a safe and secure Olympic and Paralympic games, the Government are today announcing their plans for temporary airspace control measures that will apply over London and the south-east during the games period.

The measures comprise an inner prohibited airspace zone and an outer restricted zone, approximately 60 nautical miles across, centred on the Olympic park.

Only certain categories of aircraft—those operating commercial services and subject to full security procedures—will normally be permitted to operate within the prohibited zone. Certain aircraft involved in, for example, police, medevac and Olympic broadcast operations will be exempted. Other operations at airports within this zone may also be considered for exemption subject to strict conditions, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Similarly, we are working with Battersea heliport to agree a basis on which operations there may be allowed to continue.

All types of aircraft will be permitted to operate in the wider restricted zone provided that they can satisfy certain requirements designed to ensure that all aircraft within the zone can be readily identified and monitored by air traffic control.

It is envisaged that the measures will be in place from 13 July to 12 September 2012, to cover the period of both the Olympic and Paralympic games.

These measures have been designed to help to protect key games locations from potential airborne threats. It is normal practice to implement airspace restrictions during large-scale events such as major sporting events, and similar measures have been put in place for previous Olympic and Paralympic games. The measures have been developed to be proportionate and to minimise the impact on the aviation community during the summer of 2012.

It is not expected that any airports will need to close as a result of the measures. There should be no impact on scheduled air services, and limited impact on most other types of operation outside the prohibited zone.

The Government, the Civil Aviation Authority and NATS will now work with airspace users and others to ensure that the planned measures, and their potential impacts, are fully understood and discussed before the regulations to implement them under the Air Navigation Order 2009 are made later this year.

Options for airspace controls over other Olympics venues outside the south-east are still being considered and plans for these will be announced later.

Copies of a leaflet entitled "London 2012 Airspace", aimed at the general aviation community, showing the coverage of the zones and setting out in more detail the restrictions that will apply within them, have been placed in the Library.

WALES

Referendum on Law-making Powers

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): On behalf of the Government, I welcome the result of the referendum on enhanced law-making powers for the National Assembly for Wales, which took place on 3 March.

The Government have fulfilled their commitment to hold a referendum—requested by Assembly Members—set out in the coalition's programme for Government. The referendum has enabled the people of Wales to have their say in determining the powers the National Assembly should have.

The "yes" vote will mean that the Welsh Assembly Government can get on with the job of delivering better public services, and bring forward legislation in devolved areas without reference to Parliament. The Assembly will be able to legislate on subjects in the 20 areas covered by the original devolution settlement, and set out in schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006. All the areas previously non-devolved remain non-devolved, and are the responsibility of the Government and Parliament. There is no change in this respect.

It is now for the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Assembly to decide when to bring the Assembly's enhanced powers into force.

The Government are committed to working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government and National Assembly to make these legislative arrangements work effectively.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 8 March 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement:

The EU Competitiveness Council will take place in Brussels on 9 and 10 March 2011. Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU will represent the UK on research issues on 9 March and I shall represent the UK on internal market and industry issues on 10 March.

The research substantive agenda items on 9 March will be a Commission presentation and exchange of views on the Europe 2020 strategy annual growth survey; adoption of Council conclusions on the interim evaluation of the seventh research framework programme including the risk-sharing finance facility; an update on the European innovation union flagship initiative; and adoption of Council conclusions on a pilot innovation partnership on active and healthy ageing. There will also be a lunchtime discussion on the European Commission's common strategic framework for research and innovation funding Green Paper.

The research any other business items are: a report from the Belgian delegation and the Commission on the conference "The knowledge-based bio-economy towards 2020" and a Commission presentation on the Council decision concerning the framework programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities (2012 to 2013).

The internal market and industry substantive agenda items on 10 March will be a Commission update and exchange of views on the results of the public consultation on the Single Market Act; adoption of Council conclusions on the Commission communication "Towards a better functioning single market for services—building on the results of the mutual evaluation process of the services directive"; adoption of the proposed Council decision authorising enhanced co-operation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection; a Commission presentation and exchange of views (industry perspective) on the Europe 2020 strategy annual growth survey; and adoption of Council conclusions on the raw materials initiative. There will also be an Industry Ministers lunchtime discussion on the Commission's mid-term review of the Small Business Act.

The internal market and industry any other business items will comprise Commission presentations and updates on the following:

The internal market information system (IMI);

The SOLVIT annual report;

The European Court of Justice opinion on a draft treaty for the creation of a single court for patent related disputes;

The fifth consumer scoreboard;

The public consultation: towards coherent European approach to collective redress;

The public consultation on alternative dispute resolution;

The Commission communication on reaping the benefits of electronic invoicing for Europe;

The implementation of the recommendations of the high-level group on the competitiveness of the European chemical industry.

The Government's main aims will be:

To emphasise the UK's priorities for the Single Market Act;

To agree Council conclusions on the services directive mutual evaluation process and on the Commission's raw materials initiative;

To support further progress on the EU patent;

To highlight the UK's priorities for achieving EU growth (from both industry and research perspectives) in response to the Commission's annual growth survey;

To agree Council conclusions on the seventh research framework programme interim evaluation and on the pilot innovation partnership on active and healthy ageing.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cattle Movements

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I wish to inform the House that following a Government investigation into whether any illegal trade in older cattle has occurred, new movement restrictions will be placed on cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996. This is an extra precaution against meat from these older cattle entering the food chain.

DEFRA has written to the 18,000 keepers with animals of this age to inform them that in future individual licences must be obtained before the cattle can be moved.

Controls to prevent these animals from entering the food chain are already strong. It is illegal to slaughter pre-1996 animals for food, and specified risk material (SRM) such as brain and spinal cord is removed from all cattle after slaughter. In addition, any cattle aged over 48 months are tested for BSE after slaughter and only those that test negative are allowed into the food chain.

The industry has worked hard over the years to ensure British beef regained the good reputation it deserves, both at home and abroad. This extra safeguard will help maintain this reputation.

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels in 14 March.

At this Council, the Hungarian presidency is expected to seek political agreement on the proposal for a recast of the directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

The presidency will also seek the adoption of Council conclusions on the follow-up to the 16th conference of the parties to the UN framework convention on climate change in Cancun and on the review of the community strategy concerning mercury.

There will be an exchange of views on the latest analysis of the proposal for a regulation regarding the possibility for member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory. A further exchange of views will be held on the common agricultural policy towards 2020 and on the Environment Council's contribution to the EU semester.

The following topics will be covered under "any other business":

Presentation by the Commission on the low-carbon economy roadmap 2050;

Information from the Danish delegation on endocrine disrupters;

Information from the Commission on a communication on "Regional policy contributing to sustainable growth in Europe 2020";

Information from the Commission on the state of the ETS registry; and

Information from the Austrian delegation on measures concerning the use of plastic carrier bags.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Ending violence against women and girls is a priority for this Government. On 25 November 2010, I set out our guiding principles in this area over the spending review period in a "Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls" and announced that we will be committing Home Office funding of £28 million to fund specialist services in this area over the next four years.

Today, to mark International Women's Day, I am publishing a set of supporting actions to realise our ambition in this area. This includes a full response to Baroness Stern's review into how rape cases are handled in England and Wales.

Copies of both documents will be placed in the House Library.

Police Remuneration and Conditions of Service

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Tom Winsor has today published the first report of his review of remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff in England and Wales.

The review began its work on 1 October last year. The terms of reference asked the review to make recommendations that enable the police service to manage its resources to serve the public more cost-effectively, taking account of the fiscal challenges. In particular they invited the review to focus on proposals that:

Use remuneration and conditions of service to maximise officer and staff deployment to front-line roles where their powers and skills are required;

Provide remuneration and conditions of service that are fair to and reasonable for both the public taxpayer and police officers and staff;

Enable modern management practices in line with practices elsewhere in the public sector and the wider economy.

And to have regard to:

The tough economic conditions and unprecedented public sector deficit, and the consequent Government's spending review;

The resolution by the Government that the public sector must share the burden of the deficit;

The Government's policy on pay and pensions;

Analysis of the value of current remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff, as compared to other workforces;

A strong desire from the public to see more police officers and operational staff out on the front-line of local policing;

A recognition that there are also less visible front-line roles that require policing powers and skills in order to protect the public;

The particular front-line role and nature of the office of constable in British policing, including the lack of a right to strike;

Parallel work by the police service to improve value for money;

Wider Government objectives for police reform, including the introduction of police and crime commissioners, the reduction of police bureaucracy and collaboration between police forces and with other public services;

Other relevant developments including the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission led by Lord Hutton, the Hutton review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector led by Will Hutton, any emerging recommendations from them, and the Government's commitment to protect accrued pension rights;

The impact of any recommendations on equality and diversity.

The review was asked to report in two stages, the first covering short-term improvements. Tom Winsor has now provided this first report and has been supported in this work by former chief constable Sir Edward Crew and labour market economist Professor Richard Disney.

I am very grateful for their work on this review and for this report. I will now consider the report very carefully. The report has been laid before Parliament today and copies are available from the Vote Office. It is also available electronically to the service and the public on the review's website at: http://review.police.uk/.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 9 March 2011

TREASURY

Tax Avoidance

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government are fully committed to tackling tax avoidance and will take necessary steps to protect the Exchequer and maintain fairness in the tax system.

As part of their work to improve tax policy making and the stability of the tax system, the Government published a discussion document on 9 December 2010 setting out a draft protocol on tax announcements outside scheduled fiscal events. This set out the criteria that Ministers will apply when deciding whether an announcement of immediate change is justified.

In line with that draft protocol, the Government are making such an announcement today, to tackle an aggressive tax avoidance scheme that has been disclosed to HMRC. By acting immediately, the Government are seeking to protect the Exchequer and maintain fairness in the tax system.

A lessee under a plant or machinery long funding lease can claim capital allowances. Some large businesses have entered into contrived, circular transactions involving the sale, leaseback, and reacquisition of their plant and machinery, over a period of three or four weeks, with the aim of claiming tax relief twice on one amount of expenditure.

HMRC has recently become aware that the scheme has been widely marketed and implemented with associated significant risk to the Exchequer. To date instances of the scheme that HMRC are aware of have involved expenditure in excess of £1 billion, putting hundreds of millions of pounds of tax at risk.

Legislation, which will have effect from today, will be introduced in the Finance Bill 2011 to confirm that lessees engaging in transactions of this type are only entitled to tax relief up to the actual amount of their expenditure on plant or machinery. This ensures that the rules continue to apply as intended by Parliament and will protect future losses to the Exchequer.

There should be no impact on commercial leasing arrangements, as the intended amount of relief will continue to be available. The legislation will simply put beyond any doubt that it is not possible to claim relief for some expenditure twice.

The legislation will apply both to new arrangements and to existing arrangements where payment under a guarantee has not been made prior to today.

Further details have today been published on HMRC's website together with the proposed draft legislation and a tax information and impact note.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I have today published a report entitled, "The Review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme—One Year On". The report summarises the recommendations from the review and provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Ministry of Defence over the past 12 months to implement the recommendations. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House or can be accessed at the following website: http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PolicyStrategyandPlanning

The outcome of Admiral the Lord Boyce's review of the armed forces compensation scheme was announced in February 2010. While the review found that the scheme was fundamentally sound, it made a number of recommendations for improvement. I made some early legislative changes last summer.

I am today pleased to announce the completion of all remaining changes that will lead to significant increases in the value of awards under the scheme. Most notable is the change to guaranteed income payments—paid from the point of service discharge for life—which will be increased to reflect the lasting impact of more serious injuries on future likely promotions and on the ability to work up to age 65.

Other changes include:

An increase, which averages in excess of 25%, to all lump sum award payments. This is except the top award which was recently doubled to £570,000;

Nearly tripling the maximum award for mental illness from £48,875 to £140,000 in order to reflect accurately the impact of the most serious mental health conditions;

The creation of a new independent medical expert group to advise on compensation for specific, relevant illnesses and injuries such as hearing loss and mental health;

A revised approach to awarding compensation for multiple injuries, whereby all injuries sustained will receive some compensation.

No one will lose out as a result of these changes. All those who have already received an award under the scheme will have their case automatically revisited and will receive an uplift.

EDUCATION

EU Education Council (14 February 2011)

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative, represented the UK at the Education Council, on behalf of the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Ministers adopted conclusions on the role and contribution of education and training to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. These conclusions are consistent with the European Council conclusions agreed by the Prime Minister in June and we were therefore able to support them.

There was also a policy debate between delegations on the contribution of education and training to the European semester and annual growth survey. Member states supported the overall annual growth survey messages but there was wide agreement that national targets in member states' national reform programmes (as part of the Europe 2020 strategy) should be realistic as well as ambitious.

Member states outlined their national reform programmes, with basic skills, adult education, the professionalism of teachers, and prevention of early school leaving given as key areas for action. Mobility issues were also raised, in particular by Germany, France and Finland. Germany also stated that, in their view, education should not be subject to the same Europe 2020 monitoring as fiscal areas and they specifically opposed country-specific recommendations in education.

The UK intervention supported the annual growth survey and recognised the importance of education to jobs and growth, explaining the focus of reforms in the UK following the education White Paper. On national targets, the UK was clear that we were not mirroring the EU targets. Instead we were using nationally owned indicators to measure and drive change. These indicators would enable us to measure progress against the headline targets.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Today the Government publish "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability".

This Green Paper is about the children and young people in this country who are disabled, or identified as having a special educational need. It is about their aspirations and their hopes. Their desire to become, like every child and young person, independent and successful in their chosen future, and, to the greatest extent possible, the author of their own life story.

It is about their families—who have consistently called for better support for their children and themselves. It is about families of the most disabled children who are providing 24-hour care from birth, or the families of children struggling at school who do not know where to turn for help.

It is also about their teachers, their college lecturers, and the many skilled staff from the health and social care professions who do their best, day in and day out, to provide the right support and encourage the highest aspirations.

Case for change

Life chances for the approximately 2 million children and young people in England who are identified as having a special educational need (SEN), or who are disabled, are disproportionately poor. By the time they leave school these young people are more than twice as likely to be out of education, training or employment as those without a special educational need.

We know that there is much that is excellent in the support for these children, young people and their families. But we also know that this is not happening nearly enough. While the circumstances of children, young people and their parents differ greatly; from young people requiring a few adjustments in class to children with life-limiting long-term conditions, hundreds of thousands of families with have a disabled child or a child with SEN have many shared concerns. Parents say that the system is bewildering and adversarial and that it does not sufficiently reflect the needs of their child and their family life.

Successive reports, such as the 2006 report of the Education Select Committee and Brian Lamb's report in 2009, have described a system where parents feel they have to battle for the support they need, where they are passed from pillar to post, and where bureaucracy and frustration face them at every step.

Disabled children and children with SEN tell us that they can feel frustrated by a lack of the right help at school or from other services. For children with the most complex support needs, this can significantly affect their quality of life.

Children's support needs can be identified late; families are made to put up with a culture of low expectations about what their child can achieve at school; parents do not have good information about what they can expect and have limited choices about the best schools and care for their child; and families are forced to negotiate each bit of their support separately. According to the Council for Disabled Children, on average a disabled child experiences 32 assessments as they grow up. Resources that could be spent on support and teaching are diverted into bureaucracy.

Proposed reforms

Our proposed reforms respond to the frustrations of children and young people, their families and the professionals who work with them. The vision set out in the Green Paper is informed by the views and expertise of families and national and local organisations working with them.

We want to put in place a radically different system to support better life outcomes for young people; give parents confidence by giving them more control; and transfer power to professionals on the front line and to local communities.

To support better life outcomes for young people from birth to adulthood we will help professionals: identify and meet children's needs early by ensuring that health services and early education and childcare are accessible to all children; work in partnership with parents to give each child support to fulfil their potential; and join up education, health and social care to provide families with a package of support that reflects all of their needs. We propose:

> a new approach to identifying SEN in early years settings and schools to challenge a culture of low expectations for children with SEN and give them effective support to succeed. A new single early years setting-based category and school-based category of SEN will build on our fundamental reforms to education which place sharper accountability on schools to make sure that every child fulfils his or her potential; and
>
> a new single assessment process and "Education, Health and Care Plan" by 2014 to replace the statutory SEN assessment and statement, bringing together the support on which children and their families rely across education, health and social care. Services will work together with the family to agree a straightforward plan that reflects the family's ambitions for their child from the early years to adulthood, which is reviewed regularly to reflect their changing needs, and is clear about who is responsible for provision. The new "Education, Health and Care Plan" will provide the same statutory protection to parents as the statement of SEN and will include a commitment from all parties to provide their services, with local assessment and plan pathfinders testing the best way to achieve this.

To give parents confidence by giving them more control over the support their family receives, we will introduce more transparency in the provision of services for children and young people who are disabled or who have SEN. Parents will have real choice over their child's education and the opportunity for direct control over support for their family. We propose:

> local authorities and other services will set out a local offer of all services available to support children who are disabled or who have SEN and their families. This easy-to-understand information for parents will set out what is normally available in schools to help children with lower-level SEN, as well as the options available to support families who need additional help to care for their child; and
>
> the option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or a new "Education, Health and Care Plan", many of whom will have complex support needs. Key workers will be trained to advise families and help them navigate the range of help available across health, education and social care.

To transfer power to professionals on the front line and to local communities we will: strip away unnecessary bureaucracy so that professionals can innovate and use their judgment; establish a clearer system so that professionals from different services and the voluntary and community sector can work together; and give parents and communities much more influence over local services. We propose to:

> give parents a real choice of school, either a mainstream or special school. We propose to strengthen parental choice by improving the range and diversity of schools from which parents can choose, making sure they are aware of the options available to them and by changing statutory guidance for local authorities. Parents of children with statements of SEN will be able to express a preference for any state-funded school—including special schools. Academies and free schools—and have their preference met unless it would not meet the needs of the child, be incompatible with the efficient education of other children, or be an inefficient use of resources. We will also prevent the unnecessary closure of special schools by giving parents and community groups the power to take them over; and
>
> introduce greater independence to the assessment of children's needs, testing how the voluntary and community sector could co-ordinate assessment and input from across education, health and social care as part of our proposals to move to a single assessment process and "Education, Health and Care Plan".

Next steps

The Green Paper marks an important milestone in the development of the Government's approach to supporting children and young people with SEN or who are disabled and their families. This marks the start of a four-month consultation period on our proposals.

Central Government cannot achieve this ambitious programme of reform through directing and managing change itself. The proposals we set out are for practical testing in local areas. From September 2011, local pathfinders will help demonstrate the best way to achieve our key reforms. We will also be working across Government and with our local and national partners to set out detailed plans by the end of the year.

Copies of the Green Paper "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability" will be placed in the House Libraries.

HEALTH

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): I regret that the written answer given to the hon. Member for Gravesham (Mr Holloway) on 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 477W, was partly incorrect.

Having given further consideration to the issue raised, I realise that the answer provided did not make it clear that while the protections provided to "employees", under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA), do not apply to general practitioners (GPs) who provide primary medical services as independent contractors engaged under general medical services (GMS) contracts for services by local primary care trusts (PCTs), there are certain other protections under PIDA which do apply.

PIDA, which is inserted into the Employment Rights Act 1996 (ERA), is primarily designed to protect individuals who raise certain whistleblowing concerns (as defined in PIDA) relating to their work or workplace from suffering a detriment as a result of speaking out. This legislation has two layers of protection.

The first is for those who are "employees" of a particular organisation, who are protected from dismissal as well as other detrimental treatment such as being overlooked for promotion, denied training or a bonus. The second is for "workers", which is defined in section 230(3) ERA, and includes those who work under a contract to personally perform work where their status is not that of client or customer. They have a more limited level of protection of not being subject to a detriment but they do not have unfair dismissal rights.

Generally, "workers" would not include self-employed individuals such as self-employed doctors. However, for the purpose of whistleblowing, PIDA has widened the definition of "worker" specifically to include other individuals. Section 43K(ba) ERA, includes a person who

> "works or worked as a person performing services under a contract entered into by him with a Primary Care Trust under section 84...of the National Health Service Act 2006".

Section 84 of the National Health Service Act 2006 relates to GMS contracts with GPs, and accordingly GPs who enter into such contracts with PCTs will be deemed to be "workers" for the purposes of PIDA.

Therefore if a GP raises a concern in the public interest (that falls within the PIDA criteria), relating to their GMS contract to the PCT with which they have the contract, this would be a protected disclosure. They would have a right to bring a claim under PIDA if they should suffer a detriment as a result.

While the Government's priority since May 2010 has been to raise awareness for NHS employees about their rights and protections and to ensure that staff have a contractual right to raise concerns, the hon. Member for Gravesham has raised an important point about awareness of existing protection for GPs.

Tobacco Control Plan (England)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): The Government are today publishing "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England".

The recently published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" White Paper sets out the coalition Government's determination to improve the health of the nation and to improve the health of the poorest, fastest. The White Paper recognises that reducing smoking rates represents a huge opportunity for public health, and makes commitments to publish a number of follow-on documents on how we will improve public health in specific areas. The tobacco control plan is the first of these.

Smoking remains one of our most significant public health challenges, and causes over 80,000 premature deaths in England each year. While rates of smoking have continued to decline over the past decades, 21% of adults in England still smoke. Smoking prevalence has fallen little since 2007 and we need renewed action to drive smoking rates down further.

Smoking has a devastating impact on health and well-being in our communities and we must keep up the momentum to reduce the health harms of tobacco use. Smoking contributes significantly to health inequalities and is the single biggest cause of inequalities in death rates between the richest and poorest in our communities.

Localism will be at the heart of the Government's new radical approach to the delivery of public health services, with directors of public health, jointly appointed by local authorities, to be the strategic leaders for evidence-based public health. They will also lead action in their local communities to reduce health inequalities.

The tobacco control plan sets out how comprehensive tobacco control will be delivered over the next five years within the new public health system, and includes confirmation of our intentions for ending tobacco displays in shops and for further work to explore the plain packaging of tobacco products. The plan includes specific ambitions to reduce smoking prevalence by the end of 2015:

to 18.5% or less among adults (from a baseline of 21.2%);

to 12% or less among 15-year-olds (from a baseline of 15%); and

to 11% or less among pregnant mothers (from a baseline of 14%).

These ambitions represent faster reductions in smoking rates in these groups in the next five years than we have seen in the past five years.

The plan is built around the six strands of comprehensive tobacco control that are recognised internationally:

stopping the promotion of tobacco;

making tobacco less affordable;

effective regulation of tobacco products;

helping tobacco users to quit;

reducing exposure to second-hand smoke; and

effective communications for tobacco control.

Take-up of smoking by young people is a particular concern. Smoking is an addiction largely taken up in childhood and adolescence, and so it is crucial to reduce the number of young people taking up smoking in the first place. Nicotine is extremely addictive and young people can develop dependence on tobacco very rapidly. Each year in England an estimated 320,000 children under 16 first try smoking and the majority of adult smokers were smoking regularly before they turned 18 years of age. The plan recognises that we must do as much as we can to stop the recruitment of new young smokers.

We know that teenagers are susceptible to experimenting even when there is clear evidence of the dangers. We believe that eye-catching displays encourage young people to try smoking. They also undermine quit attempts by adults by tempting them to make impulse buys of tobacco.

This is why we are implementing legislation to end tobacco displays in shops. This will help to change perceptions of the social norms around smoking, especially by young people who are often the target of tobacco promotion.

While maintaining the expected public health gains, we will amend the display regulations to mitigate burdens on business. The growth review announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in November 2010 aims to reduce the regulatory burden on small and medium enterprises and micro businesses. In keeping with this approach, we will make the legislation more practical by:

giving retailers longer to prepare by delaying commencement until 6 April 2012 for large shops and 6 April 2015 for small shops;

increasing the size of temporary displays allowed when serving customers and re-stocking (from 0.75 square metres to 1.5 square metres); and

adding to the circumstances in which such displays can occur, for example, to carry out stock-taking and other activities necessary in running a business.

In this important area, I am interested in any measure with the potential to promote positive social norms around tobacco use and to diminish the impact of anything which promotes tobacco use, especially as this affects young people. We must continue to try new approaches, particularly those that may encourage behaviour change. We will, therefore, explore whether the introduction of plain packaging would bring additional public health benefits. The Government have an open mind on this and we want to hear what people think.

The tobacco control plan confirms a commitment to consult by the end of this year on options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging. To do this we must review the evidence and draw up an impact assessment on the costs and additional public health benefits of policy options. We will, as well, explore the competition, trade and legal implications, and the likely impact on the illicit tobacco market of options around tobacco packaging. While similar measures are currently being considered actively by a number of Governments around the world, we must be sure about the impacts of policy options in the legal and trading circumstances of tobacco control in this country. Only after this work, and gathering views and evidence from public consultation, will we be in a position to know whether, or how, to proceed.

An academic review "The Impact of Smokefree Legislation in England: Evidence Review" has been published today.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) has also published today the outcome of the consultation on the regulation of nicotine-containing products. The MHRA will co-ordinate a period of further scientific and market research to inform decisions about the regulation of nicotine-containing products.

All documents have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

TRANSPORT

Supporting Community Transport

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): Today I am announcing £10 million of new funding to be distributed to rural local transport authorities to kick-start the development of community transport services in their area.

In addition, we have formed a partnership with the Community Transport Association to provide each of the 76 rural local authorities in England with £2,600-worth of consultancy advice on how to establish, manage and make sustainable community transport operations within their area. There is the option for local authorities to supplement this with their own funds to receive further services.

This additional funding complements our recently announced local sustainable transport fund, which allows local authorities to bid for a share of £560 million over four years, aimed at encouraging sustainable transport solutions, including community transport, that will create economic growth and cut carbon.

Public transport remains a key element in the sustainability and independence of rural communities: offering young people access to education and employment opportunities, linking customers to shops and services, and providing a lifeline to those without access to a car.

Where commercial bus services are not viable, community transport can play a valuable role in preventing isolation. I therefore strongly encourage local authorities to work in partnership with operators and local communities to examine how more flexible services might be provided.

Services such as dial-a-ride can, in some areas, be more efficient, effective and sustainable in the long term. I know that there are already many good examples of community groups and local authorities working together to deliver innovative solutions to rural transport needs and this is something we wish to see increased.

Today's package of support for community transport represents an important opportunity to invest in the future to provide more sustainable transport for local communities.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 10 March 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN (15 March 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 15 March 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

Economic Governance

Ministers will be asked to reach agreement on a package of legislative measures intended to strengthen economic governance in the EU, particularly the euro area, to address the challenges of the sovereign debt crisis, while fully respecting the provisions in the UK's protocol to the treaty.

Climate Finance

Ministers will adopt Council conclusions on climate finance. The conclusions welcome and reaffirm the commitments on climate finance agreed at the UN negotiations in December 2010. The Government support these conclusions.

Stability and Growth Pact Implementation

Ministers will exchange views on the latest fiscal plans provided by Hungary and Poland in the context of their excessive deficit procedures (EDP). No formal conclusions are foreseen on this item.

Office of Tax Simplification

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government launched the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) in July 2010 to provide independent advice on simplifying the tax system.

The Chancellor tasked the OTS with identifying areas of the tax system that cause the most day-to-day complexity for small businesses, recommend priority areas for simplification and consider the impact of these recommendations on different business sectors.

The OTS was also asked to identify the complexities surrounding the intermediaries legislation widely known as IR35 and to consider simpler approaches that ensure that any income that is effectively employment income is fairly taxed.

Today the OTS has published its interim report in which they identify structural complexities in the tax system and put forward their provisional recommendations on ways the Government might be able to pursue their simplification. The OTS also presents evidence on complexity caused by IR35 and options for the Chancellor to consider.

The Government will respond to this report at Budget on 23 March 2011. A copy of the report has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (Final Report)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): Lord Hutton has today published the final report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission.

I invited Lord Hutton to undertake a fundamental structural review of public service pensions and make recommendations on future public service pension provision. The Government are grateful for the work of Lord Hutton and the staff of the commission and will now give careful consideration to his recommendations. The Government are also committed to continuing to engage with people working in the public sector, trade unions and others in taking forward the implementation of any future reforms.

The Government stand by their commitment given at spending review that there is no race to the bottom of the pension provision, that public service pensions should remain a gold standard and that public service pensions should continue to provide some form of defined benefit.

The report is available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and it has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available on the Commission's website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_johnhutton_pensions.htm.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Planning Inspectorate and Major Infrastructure Planning

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I am announcing further detail on the Government's plans to replace the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) with a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit within the Planning Inspectorate. This unit will examine and make recommendations to Ministers on all major infrastructure applications on transport networks, ports, energy, hazardous waste and water.

Leadership of the Planning Inspectorate

The leadership of the Planning Inspectorate will change from 1 April 2011. The current chief executive, Katrine Sporle, is due to retire at the end of March. Katrine has made a significant contribution to the Planning Inspectorate and was awarded a CBE for outstanding public service earlier this year. I would like to record my thanks to her for her role in building the Planning Inspectorate's reputation and for its successful track record during her tenure.

I am pleased to announce that Sir Michael Pitt, chair of the IPC, has agreed to increase his working hours and take on the additional role of chief executive of the Planning Inspectorate from 1 April 2011. Sir Michael Pitt is an experienced chief executive and I am confident that he will approach his new role with the energy and commitment required to make the transition a success.

Following Royal Assent of the Localism Bill and the closure of the IPC, Sir Michael Pitt will remain chief executive of the Planning Inspectorate. He will oversee the changes to the infrastructure planning regime and ensure that the new integrated Planning Inspectorate delivers an excellent service across its range of responsibilities.

Transitional arrangements for applications in the system

I would like to confirm my intention to retain the current cadre of commissioners appointed to examine major infrastructure applications until September 2014. This will ensure continuity and stability through the transition. They will form part of a single group of professionals that will work across the whole range of applications and appeal casework that the Planning Inspectorate will consider.

By retaining the skills of commissioners, I can confirm that major infrastructure applications in progress at the point of transition will be handled by the same individuals and that they will not be subject to any delay. Moreover, applicants should be reassured that ministerial decisions will be made in line with the existing statutory time scale of 12 months.

These arrangements will offer the strong leadership and valuable stability which will provide applicants with the confidence they need to bring forward applications.

Our continued commitment to the major infrastructure planning regime

The new major infrastructure planning regime is still in its early stages with the first applications under the Planning Act 2008 having only recently been accepted for examination. The Government's commitment to create a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit with all decisions taken by Ministers will restore democratic accountability to the system while retaining the existing approach, expertise and statutory timetables of the current major infrastructure planning system. On this basis we now have the right model to meet the Government's objectives to promote infrastructure growth and security, facilitate investment for the UK economy and ensure that the decisions we make on these large projects have the stamp of legitimacy. This is the right arrangement for a major infrastructure planning system in the 21st century.

The regime will be:

a front-loaded regime with clear opportunities for local communities to engage throughout the process;

a regime where the policy is clearly set out in national policy statements providing certainty and predictability;

a speedy and efficient regime, with in-built statutory timetables, which delivers robust results; and

a democratically accountable regime which allows Parliament to approve national policy statements and Ministers to determine all infrastructure applications of national importance.

This model will ensure high-quality applications come forward that can be examined and determined quickly in line with set timetables. The Government recognise however, that the 2008 Planning Act regime is new and substantially different from the multiple and overlapping regimes it replaced. We are therefore listening to industry, representative groups and others using the system for the first time and will be exploring opportunities for improvement to ensure the system has the right mix of certainty, flexibility and efficiency.

Review of Coalfield Regeneration
(Government Response)

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): In 2010 the previous Government initiated a review of coalfields regeneration to help inform future policy in this area and the review chaired by Michael Clapham was completed in September last year. This response sets out the coalition Government's commitment to provide continuing support to communities in these areas and to make locally led regeneration the central feature of the new approach, driving growth and helping local leaders to strengthen their economic potential and support communities.

The Clapham review found that some communities were still in need of specific intervention in tackling the key continuing inequalities of the coalfield areas. They had a need for continued provision of targeted coalfields funding and for that funding to be more effectively co-ordinated. The review also suggested that local authorities should have a central role to play in the next phase of coalfields regeneration, and that a small grants or loans scheme was needed to help businesses struggling to access funding in the current economic climate.

Government welcome the review and accept the strong case it makes for targeted support to help the most challenged coalfield areas achieve a basis on which they can go forward as self sustaining communities. The Government are committed to helping local communities in overcoming health and skills inequalities and in developing the leadership to drive forward their own plans for economic growth and community renewal. The overriding need to reduce expenditure nationally to help tackle the fiscal deficit means that funding will be less than in the past. It will need to be closely targeted at the most deprived areas and in helping communities to develop plans which are not reliant on public subsidy in the future. Government will invest in realistic plans for locally led growth intended over time to bring coalfield areas up to the levels of economic activity in the adjoining areas.

The response sets out measures in four key areas:

Funding for the coalfields regeneration trust, with a total of £30 million over two years and potential for further funding in years three and four as part of transition to a self-funded body. This will enable it to lead a new partnership programme for coalfield areas to focus on key issues including health inequalities and community support and to continue to support small projects in individual communities;

Funding of around £150 million to complete over time remaining investment projects in the HCA coalfields programme which are commercially realistic and in line with local priorities;

Giving local authorities greater flexibilities and a key role in determining priorities for local HCA investment and advising on asset transfers;

Creating a new small business start up fund as part of the coalfield regeneration trust programme working with enterprise fund and other coalfields partners to provide small loans to business start ups in the most challenged areas.

The report has been placed in the Library of the House.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewable Heat Incentive

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I am announcing today the publication of the policy document which sets out details of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) to support technologies including biomass, ground source and water source heat pumps, solar thermal and biomethane. Heating accounts for 47% of total UK final energy consumption and 46% of our carbon emissions. We already have the renewables obligation and feed-in tariffs schemes to help drive an increase in renewable electricity, evidenced by the recent expansion in wind farms and domestic solar panels. Similarly we have the renewable transport fuel obligation, to help transform our transport fuel use. The introduction of the RHI will for the first time provide long-term guaranteed financial support for renewable heat installations.

Under the RHI, organisations using renewable heat will receive quarterly payments for 20 years from the date they enter the scheme. In addition to support for new installations, organisations which installed eligible renewable heat equipment since 15 July 2009 will also qualify for support under the RHI.

The scheme will be introduced in two phases. In the first phase, long-term tariff support will be targeted in the non-domestic sectors, at the big heat users—the industrial, business and public sector—which contribute 38% of the UK's carbon emissions. Under this phase there will also be support of around £15 million for households through the renewable heat premium payment. The second phase of the RHI scheme will see households moved to long-term tariff support similar to that offered to the non-domestic sector in the first phase. This transition will be timed to align with the green deal which is intended to be introduced in October 2012.

The household technologies supported under the first phase of this scheme will be monitored to enable Government, manufacturers, installers and individuals to better understand how to get maximum performance from them in real-life situations in people's homes. Given the current economic climate it is more important than ever that this scheme delivers value for money and ensures there is a fair spread of technologies across a range of property types. That is what the renewable heat premium payments will provide; they ensure that before we commit to long-term payments in a sector where it is particularly difficult to predict levels of take-up—and levels of performance—of different heat technologies, we manage their roll-out and learn more about them, as well as controlling the budget and ensuring the money goes where it is intended. Domestic equipment installed during this period will be eligible for the RHI tariff payments when they are introduced in 2012. At this point we will also consider introducing support for a number of other technologies and fuels which are not supported from the outset. The RHI represents a serious investment in our future and offers significant benefits:

it supports emerging technologies and businesses in the UK;

strengthens security of supply through increased diversification of heating fuels and reducing dependence on one or two fuels only;

reduces carbon emissions and contributes to our legally binding renewables target; and

contributes to the Government's commitment to introduce measures to promote a huge increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion.

Further details of the scheme can be found in the RHI policy document, which is available in the Libraries of both Houses.

We are also today publishing text for the draft regulations that will underpin the tariff scheme. These are a working draft and will be subject to change before they are laid in Parliament. We will consider comments from stakeholders on their practical application. We are looking to seek parliamentary approval of the regulations in July 2011 and will introduce the tariff scheme thereafter. The scheme which provides premium payments for the domestic sector will start in July. Details about this phase will be published in around two months time.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Overseas Territories

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): Our overall vision is for our territories to be vibrant and flourishing communities, proudly retaining aspects of their British identity and generating wider opportunities for their people. We want to cherish the rich environmental assets for which, together, we are responsible.

We will continue vigorously to uphold the principle of self-determination and to ensure the continued security of all the overseas territories. We set this commitment out clearly in the strategic defence and security review. We want to help the territories plan their future in a competitive and unpredictable world. We will help territories that are struggling economically to avoid unnecessary financial dependence on the UK. We will help territories that now rely on UK financial support to reduce their dependence and pursue the path towards economic sustainability. We will ensure a sustained and robust British presence in our uninhabited territories to protect them for future generations.

We are determined that the situation we have found in the Turks and Caicos Islands is not repeated, there or elsewhere. We therefore want to work with territories to make sure the right controls are in place to ensure good governance and sound management of public finances.

I am clear that, as well as seeking greater engagement with the territories from all Government Departments, the FCO must increase the resources allocated to this important work. Despite our challenging spending review settlement I have ensured that this is so. As I informed Parliament on 1 February, I have decided to increase the overseas territories programme fund to £7 million per year. I have ensured the resources available to run the overseas territories network are maintained at a level that will permit the upgrading of a number of governorships which were downgraded in recent years. This will help ensure that we are able to recruit governors with the skills and experience to do these unusual and challenging jobs.

In addition, I have reallocated resources in the current financial year to help rectify some of the budgetary weaknesses that have emerged in some territories in recent years.

Most importantly, and mindful of the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have approved a discretionary grant of £6.6 million to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government to reimburse the costs incurred in the past year pursuing corruption and violent crime.

This is for the special investigation and prosecution team; related civil recovery work; and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands police. My officials have co-ordinated this carefully with DFID's work to underpin the territory's public finances.

This is an exceptional case. Our basic principle remains that it is an integral part of good governance for a territory Government to ensure that the criminal justice system is properly funded. Territories should not look to the UK to fund criminal investigations or prosecutions that they are reluctant to pursue themselves. But the burden in this case has been exceptional. The fiscal rescue package put in place by DFID should enable future costs to be met from the Turks and Caicos Islands Government public purse in the normal way.

I have also approved the following smaller grants.

> £1 million to the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Administration to strengthen the territory's reserves. This is necessary in the face of rising costs of operating the BIOT patrol vessel. These funds will also enable the Administration to support new measures to help Chagossians visit the territory for humanitarian purposes and to contribute to environmental work in the territory. In this context, I would also like to inform the Committee that the BIOT Administration has concluded an agreement with the Blue Foundation and the Bertorelli Foundation by which the Bertorelli Foundation will donate £3.5 million over the next five years to offset the loss of fisheries revenue that has flowed from the establishment of a full no-take marine protected area. I am most grateful to these foundations for their generous support.
>
> £1 million to the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands to strengthen their reserves in the face of recent reductions in fisheries revenue.
>
> £100,000 to the Government of the British Antarctic Territory to enable them to grant a similar amount to the Antarctic Heritage Trust. This grant will be used to support the trust's work repairing and maintaining heritage sites in the British Antarctic Territory, as we prepare to mark the many forthcoming centenaries of the heroic age of exploration. Maintaining British heritage sites is part and parcel of demonstrating UK sovereignty in Antarctica.
>
> £1 million in capital grant to the Ascension Island Government to enable them to replace the harbour crane—a critical piece of infrastructure. This grant will facilitate the restructuring of AIG's public finances which is necessary to put them on a sustainable footing for the future.

I also plan to bring all aspects of the Government's policies on the overseas territories together in a new White Paper in the course of the year ahead. We will want to consult widely on this. I am working with relevant Departments on a new strategy to underpin this Government's approach to the territories. I intend to seek agreement to this strategy across Government through the National Security Council and will update the House further once this is complete.

I will inform Parliament of the outcome of discussions in the NSC in due course.

Private Military and Security Company Industry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): On 16 September 2010 the Foreign Secretary confirmed that the Government would be taking forward work to promote high standards in the Private Military and Security Company (PMSC) industry on three tracks: introducing robust regulation in the UK through a trade association based on a voluntary code of conduct agreed with and monitored by the Government; using the Government's leverage as a key buyer of PMSC services to promote compliance with the code; and, seeking an international agreement on standards consistent with the UK code covering all aspects of PMSC organisation and operation worldwide.

Since then, we have made significant progress on the international strand. We have been leading work with the United States and Swiss Governments to develop international standards for the industry. On 9 November 2010 an international code of conduct for PMSCs was signed in Geneva by 58 major international PMSCs. This code is based on principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, and sets out broad guidelines for the organisation and operations of the industry worldwide. Since then, an additional 13 companies have signed up to the code. We are now working with the Swiss and US Governments, the PMSC industry and NGO community to establish an international mechanism to monitor compliance with the code. The Government are also now working to update its guidance for shipping companies who use PMSC services at sea, to protect their vessels against piracy.

We have also made progress to identify a representative from industry to work with us to establish a code of conduct setting out national standards derived from the international code, and to monitor and audit compliance of UK based PMSCs. We received proposals from two organisations, which we assessed in detail, and I can confirm that we will be entering further discussions with Aerospace Defence and Security (ADS) to determine next steps for ensuring the implementation of a robust code and monitoring regime in the UK.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Worker Registration Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before Parliament regulations which will have the effect of closing, on 30 April 2011, the worker registration scheme for workers from those member states from eastern Europe that joined the EU on 1 May 2004. This means that after 30 April 2011 nationals of those countries will no longer be subject to a requirement to register their employment as a condition of working legally in the United Kingdom and will be able to work and reside in the United Kingdom on the same basis as nationals from other EU member states.

The worker registration scheme is being closed because the terms of the treaty of accession mean that the United Kingdom cannot apply restrictions on access to the labour market to nationals of those member states for more than seven years from the date of accession. Those other EU member states—that is, Germany and Austria—that have maintained such restrictions to date will also be required to lift them.

The Government intend to apply transitional controls on labour market access, in accordance with the relevant accession treaty, to nationals of any country joining the EU in the future. This is part of the Government's commitment to reducing net migration to the tens of thousands, alongside the steps that the Government are taking to reduce immigration from outside the EU, including new limits on numbers of workers admitted under tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system and reforms to other routes of entry including students, families and marriage. Economic migration routes will remain closed to lower-skilled migrants from outside the EU while UK and EU labour continues to be available to meet labour needs at this level.

The UK Border Agency will be publishing guidance on its website for workers from the relevant accession member states and for employers, clarifying their responsibilities in relation to compliance with the worker registration scheme until its closure on 30 April.

2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games (Security Preparations)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic games will be a once-in-a-lifetime sporting event. The Home Office and police are leading planning and operations to ensure that the games will be safe and secure—and in keeping with the wider Olympic and Paralympic culture and experience.

I am today announcing the Government's intention to increase the maximum penalty for touting of Olympic and Paralympic tickets from £5,000 to £20,000. The change will ensure that there is a more substantial deterrent to serious and organised criminal groups, who may otherwise target Olympic tickets.

No conduct that is currently legal will be criminalised. The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) will be operating an exchange system for those who wish to sell unwanted tickets legitimately; and it also will remain possible privately to sell-on unwanted tickets at face value to family members or friends.

In addition, the Olympic and Paralympic safety and security strategy has been updated and the Home Office is publishing an unclassified version of this strategy today.

Publishing an unclassified version of the updated strategy builds on this Government's intention to make public as much information about games safety and security as it can, without disclosing sensitive material.

The strategy has been produced in consultation with all key partners who are involved in Olympic and Paralympic safety and security planning.

Copies of this document will be placed in the House Libraries and in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): Today is the publication of the "Report on implementing the Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings".

This publication is the work of the two independent monitors, Mr Andrew Williamson and Mr Peter Smallridge, who were asked to monitor the implementation of their original report from 2008—"Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings". I welcome their report and the conclusion that Government, secure establishments and other agencies have made good progress on implementing an ambitious programme of change in the way restraint is used in the youth secure estate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr Williamson and Mr Smallridge for their contribution to this important area of work. Copies of their original report and the Government response from 2008 can be found on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Expenditure Limit (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I regret to inform the House that there were inaccuracies in my written ministerial statement printed on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 62WS. The corrected statement now reads:

Subject to parliamentary approval of any supplementary estimate, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) total DEL will increase by £13,685,000 from £34,158,000 to £47,843,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	1,743	3,625	35,917	5,327	41,244
Admin Budget	*1,392*	-	*18,143*	-	*18,143*
Capital	8,317	-	8,757	-	8,757
Depreciation	-	-	(2,100)	(58)	(2,158)
Total DEL	10,060	3,625	42,574	5,269	47,843

The change in resource element of DEL arises from:

A transfer of £1,543,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive in respect of the outstanding machinery of government and other budgetary changes as a result of stage 2 devolution which were not reflected in the winter supplementary estimate;

A transfer of £200,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive for preparatory costs of the 2011 elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly; and

A claim on the DEL reserve of £3,625,000 for the 2010 general election.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

A transfer of £8 million from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport relating to the funding for minority language issues as part of stage 2 devolution; and

A transfer of £317,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive in respect of the remaining machinery of government and other budgetary changes as a result of stage 2 devolution which were not reflected in the winter supplementary estimate.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any supplementary estimate, the Northern Ireland Executive total DEL will increase by £175,339,000 from £10,826,546,000 to

£11,001,885,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

	Change £000	*New DEL £000*
Resource DEL	188,910	10,120,615
Capital DEL	-13,571	1,209,335
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	175,339	11,329,950
Less Depreciation	-	328,065
Total DEL net of depreciation	175,339	11,001,885

The change in the resource DEL arises from:

The take up of DEL end year flexibility of £96,435,000;

A transfer of £56,722,000 from capital DEL to resource DEL;

Net transfers totalling £1,543,000 to the Northern Ireland Office. These transfers are part of the outstanding budgetary changes arising from stage 2 devolution;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £67,646,000 for policing and justice;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £50,000,000 for ring-fenced student loans;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £8,200,000 in respect of Barnett consequentials arising from modernisation of DWP;

A reduction of £89,560,000 which represents the NIE share of the £6 billion reductions announced in May 2010;

A transfer of £10,000 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the low-carbon initiative;

A transfer of £200,000 to the Northern Ireland Office for preparatory costs of the 2011 elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly; and

An increase of £1,200,000 in respect of the change in treatment of student loans.

The change in the capital DEL arises from:

A transfer of £31,112,000 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for the agreed share of the launch investment which is to be paid to Bombardier Inc and Short Brothers PLC for the C Series aircraft;

A transfer of £105,000 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change for the low-carbon initiative;

The take up of DEL end year flexibility of £120,623,000;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £12,900,000 for policing and justice;

A reduction of £38,248,000 which represents the NIE share of the £6 billion reductions announced in May 2010;

A reduction of £23,000,000 in respect of the carry forward of capital DEL to 2011-12;

A claim on the DEL reserve of £2,200,000 in respect of Barnett consequentials arising from modernisation of DWP;

A transfer of £56,722,000 from capital DEL to resource DEL; and

A transfer of £317,000 to the Northern Ireland Office. This is part of the outstanding budgetary changes arising from stage 2 devolution that were not processed in the winter supplementary estimate.

The effect of the above changes is to increase the grant payable to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund by £683,000,000 to £15,253,000,000.

TRANSPORT

Renewable Energy and Fuel Quality Directives

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): Biofuels have an important role to play in efforts to tackle climate change, particularly where there is no viable alternative fuel on the horizon, as is the case with aviation and HGVs. In addition, they also have a role to play in promoting the security of energy supply. But we firmly believe that the potential carbon benefits of biofuels can only be realised if they are produced in a sustainable way.

My Department recognises that there are legitimate concerns about the sustainability of some biofuels. Biofuels are a continually developing technology and there is still scientific uncertainty about the sustainability of biofuels and their wider socio-economic impacts.

Much work is under way to better understand indirect sustainability effects. It is crucial that we establish strong sustainability criteria and a robust lifecycle carbon analysis to ensure first that biofuels deliver real greenhouse gas reductions and second, do not cause unacceptable environmental side effects in the process.

In particular, my Department takes the issue of indirect land use change seriously. We have recently published research on the scale of indirect land use change impacts and we are continuing to lead work on how to tackle these. The European Commission is in the process of assessing a range of options to address the issue of indirect land use change and I have written to the EU Energy, Environment and Climate Commissioners to impress on them the need for an adequate and robust solution.

Given the uncertainties, I believe it is right that this Government have taken additional time to review the subject carefully. There have been shifts in biofuels policy in the past so we need to ensure that policy decisions going forward are robust and stable, which will also give confidence to business to invest.

In addition to concerns regarding the sustainability of biofuels, we must also consider where biofuels would be best deployed across the transport sector. It may be best to focus use of what may well be limited supplies of sustainably sourced biofuel in transport modes where no other low-carbon energy source is likely to be viable.

In April 2010, my Department commissioned work to determine how best biofuels should be deployed across all transport modes. In addition, the Government tasked the Committee on Climate Change to review the level of ambition for renewable energy. These pieces of work are due to conclude over the coming months. The evidence we gather about the best use of biofuels across modes will inform our view of likely levels of uptake.

Given that biofuels policy has wide implications, I will continue to engage with ministerial colleagues across Whitehall to ensure that Government policy on biofuels is aligned going forward.

Today, I am publishing separate consultations on proposals to implement the European renewable energy and fuel quality directives. Both of these directives contain requirements related to the use of biofuels.

The renewable energy directive requires the UK, by 2020, to source 15% of its overall energy, and 10% of energy used in transport, from renewable sources. The related fuel quality directive requires fuel and energy suppliers (principally those providing fuel and energy for land-based transport) to reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of the fuel/energy that they supply by 6% per unit of energy by 2020.

Given the need to consider our developing evidence base, I do not propose to make any changes to the current biofuel supply trajectory that is set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007. However, there will be a legal obligation on the Secretary of State to keep this issue under review and to consider what additional measures will be required to ensure that the UK delivers the requirements of the EU renewable energy and fuel quality directives in the period 2014 to 2020. This approach should enable us to establish a stable biofuel policy that will allow industry to robustly plan for the period 2014 to 2020.

The two consultation documents set out proposals to implement the transport requirements of the renewable energy directive through amendment of the UK's renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) and proposals to implement the fuel quality directive through the amended RTFO and the proposed motor fuel greenhouse gas saving regulations. Our implementation proposals involve making new provisions for biofuels to meet the EU biofuel sustainability criteria and introducing double certification for biofuels produced from wastes (such as used cooking oil) and other feedstocks that do not compete with food production or contribute to indirect land use change. In addition, we propose to put in place a 6% lifecycle greenhouse gas reduction obligation for 2020 and introduce requirements for the relevant fuel/energy suppliers to report on the lifecycle greenhouse gas performance of their fuels in the meantime.

The consultation period will run from today until 2 June and we aim to introduce and bring into force the relevant legislation completing the implementation of the transport elements of both directives by the end of this year.

Petitions

Friday 4 March 2011

OBSERVATIONS

EDUCATION

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Petition of Liverpool Community College students and staff,

Declares that the petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA); that the petitioners believe that the EMA helps thousands of young people to reach their full potential; that the petitioners believe that the loss of EMA will damage the country's economic future and impact on social justice by making it harder for disadvantaged young people to access education; and that the petitioners believe that the abolition of the EMA will lead to cuts in local provision as colleges respond to reductions in learner numbers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance and to continue supporting adult learners through the Adult Learning Grant.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Luciana Berger, Official Report,* 21 December 2010; Vol. 520, c. 1429.]

[P000873]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The Chancellor announced on 20 October that we would be ending the EMA scheme. The EMA scheme closed to new applicants on 1 January 2011 and will close entirely at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. We intend to replace it, from September 2011, with a more efficient and effective package of financial support which is more closely targeted on those who face genuine financial barriers to participation.

In coming to this decision the Government have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research carried out by the previous Labour Government, which shows that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA.

We are maintaining the commitment to full participation and to raising the participation age. In replacing the EMA, we want colleges, schools and training organisations to be able to make sure that those students who need support the most will receive it.

We remain committed to supporting adult students in further education. We signalled in the Skills Investment Strategy that as the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) provides vital support any reform would need to be managed carefully and in consultation with the sector. Streamlining some of the current learner support funds into one discretionary fund is in response to the sector, who indicated they would welcome a more coherent and simplified approach to student support. In doing this we are not reducing the amount of support available, but reviewing the way in which it is administered and awarded. In transferring the amount of budget allocated to ALG currently, we want colleges and other training providers to be able to make sure those students who need support most will receive it.

The Petition of students of Walsall College,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose any reduction in weekly Education Maintenance Allowance payments in this Parliament; notes that the Petitioners further oppose the loss of financial support to 14 to 19-year-olds from low-income families who wish to stay on in further education.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to continue the payment of Education Maintenance Allowance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Valerie Vaz, Official Report,* 19 January 2011; Vol. 521, c. 978.]

[P000878]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The Chancellor announced on 20 October that we would be ending the EMA scheme. The EMA scheme closed to new applicants on 1 January 2011 and will close entirely at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. We intend to replace it, from September 2011, with a more efficient and effective package of financial support which is more closely targeted on those who face genuine financial barriers to participation.

In coming to this decision the Government have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research carried out by the previous Labour Government, which shows that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA.

We are maintaining the commitment to full participation and to raising the participation age. In replacing the EMA, we want colleges, schools and training organisations to be able to make sure that those students who need support the most will receive it.

The Petition of residents of Sunderland and the surrounding area,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance; and notes that education can provide a better future for young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government not to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Official Report,* 18 January 2011; Vol. 521, c. 812.*]*

[P000880]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The Chancellor announced on 20 October that we would be ending the EMA scheme. The EMA scheme closed to new applicants on 1 January 2011 and will close entirely at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. We intend to replace it, from September 2011, with a more efficient and effective package of financial support which is more closely targeted on those who face genuine financial barriers to participation.

In coming to this decision the Government have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research carried out by the previous Labour Government, which shows that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA.

We are maintaining the commitment to full participation and to raising the participation age. In replacing the EMA, we want colleges, schools and training organisations to be able to make sure that those students who need support the most will receive it.

Further and Higher Education Funding

The Petition of students and staff of Swallow Hill Community College, and others,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance; and further declares that the Petitioners oppose the Government's decision to raise Higher Education tuition fees.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reverse its decisions to abolish the Education Maintenance Allowance and to raise Higher Education tuition fees.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Rachel Reeves, Official Report,* 18 January 2011; Vol. 521, c. 812.]

[P000879]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

The Chancellor announced on 20 October that we would be ending the EMA scheme. The EMA scheme closed to new applicants on 1 January 2011 and will close entirely at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. We intend to replace it, from September 2011, with a more efficient and effective package of financial support which is more closely targeted on those who face genuine financial barriers to participation.

In coming to this decision the Government have looked closely at evaluation evidence and other research carried out by the previous Labour Government, which shows that around 90% of recipients would have stayed on after 16 even if they had not received EMA.

We are maintaining the commitment to full participation and to raising the participation age. In replacing the EMA, we want colleges, schools and training organisations to be able to make sure that those students who need support the most will receive it.

Our proposals to reform higher education funding and student finance incorporate a range of measures to ensure that students from poorer backgrounds can have full and fair access to a higher education. This includes the fact that the Government will provide the up-front finance for anyone eligible who secures a place at university so that graduates do not have to contribute to the cost of their higher education until they are earning more than £21,000.

We are also proposing a generous student support package to help full-time students with living costs. The poorest students will be able to get more non-repayable grant than under the current system and most full-time students should have no less overall support for living costs than they do now.

We are asking universities and colleges that want to charge above £6,000 per annum (and subject to a limit of £9,000 in exceptional circumstances) for any or all of their courses first to secure the agreement of the Office for Fair Access, and meet tough new access conditions. And we have announced a new £150 million National Scholarship Programme to attract bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them access universities and guarantee them extra support to help them meet the costs of going to university.

Good quality and diverse higher education is a benefit to society and to the economy in the long term. These proposals will ensure that our world-class higher education sector has the sustainable long-term funding it needs and that those who can benefit from a higher education have the opportunity to participate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Charge on Single Use Carrier Bags

The Petition of supporters of Penrith Action for Community Transition (PACT) in Penrith, Cumbria,

Declares that the Petitioners wish to see a significant reduction in the issuing of plastic carrier bags by retailers through the introduction of a compulsory charge, as in the case of Wales where a charge of 7p per bag is to be in place from spring 2011.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to introduce the compulsory charge on the issuing of single-use carrier bags in England, for which it has power under section 77 (and Schedule 6) of the Climate Change Act 2008.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented, Official Report,* 9 February 2011; Vol. 523, c. 3 P.*]*

[P000886]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government are working towards a zero-waste economy. To date, the Government have sought to achieve reductions in the amount of carrier bags issued via voluntary agreements, rather than legislation.

The first of two voluntary agreements, between UK Governments and 21 high street retailers, reduced the environmental impact of carrier bags by 40% between May 2006 and December 2008, exceeding the 25% target. Signatories to the agreement encouraged reuse of carrier bags, increased recycled content and reduced the weight of their carrier bags, among other measures.

The second agreement, between UK Governments and the UK's leading supermarkets (represented by the BRC), achieved a 48% reduction in numbers of bags distributed between May 2006 and May 2009.

The latest annual data for 2010 show a continuous year-on-year reduction in the numbers and in the weight of all bags. Since 2006, these have dropped by 41% and 42% respectively. For single use bags, the reduction was 43% in numbers and 51% in weight.

The Government are currently undertaking a review of all waste policy and the issue of single-use carrier bags will be included in this. This is expected to report in May.

The Welsh Assembly Government legislation requiring a charge to be made for single-use carrier bags comes into force in October 2011. We will of course consider their experience.

Petition

Wednesday 9 March 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Child Protection

The Petition of Jackie Goddard,

Declares that the Petitioner's daughter T was removed from her care because of a burn and a number of incidents where her skin was inflamed. Initially the Petitioner could not explain the cause of these. However, it is now known that the burn was caused by the control panel on a heater which is now accepted by the manufacturers as being faulty. The Petitioner also received a new suite just before the inflammations were recognized. The lesions are also similar to those caused by Di-Methyl Fumerate, however, no test has been allowed to identify whether T exhibits such an allergic reaction.

When the Petitioner's daughter was removed she was told her daughter would be going into foster care. Her father raised concerns that given that he was a justice of the peace and a registered child minder it would be surprising if he was rejected as a carer. The Petitioner also believes that the reason they took her younger daughter into care and left her older daughter was because the older daughter was of a darker colour and the objective was to satisfy adoption targets rather than protect her younger daughter. The younger daughter was, therefore, more "adoptable".

The family believe that the medical evidence in this case should be reviewed as the courts decisions rely on information that has now been shown to be unreliable. The family also believes that this case demonstrates that Manchester Children's Services have acted with a priority of achieving an adoption rather than a priority of protecting children.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to reprioritise the child protection system to concentrate on protecting children and that the House of Commons institute a parliamentary inquiry into this case and the failure of the checks and balances involved.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Ruane.]*

[P000899]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 February 2011

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Alternative Vote

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what information the Electoral Commission holds on the views of its staff prior to their appointment on the adoption of the alternative vote system for elections to the House of Commons. [42676]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that its staff and commissioners provide, on recruitment, details of any prior political activity that falls within the restrictions set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act.

In addition, commissioners (and staff, where relevant) maintain a register of interests which is published online and declare any interests relevant to items under discussion at board meetings. These declarations are recorded in the minutes which are published online. In some cases these include declarations of individual commissioners' past (or current) positions on various issues, including on the alternative vote.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Written Questions

Martin Horwood: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many parliamentary questions for written answer have been tabled by the hon. Member for Hammersmith since May 2010; what the largest number of such questions tabled in a single day was; and what estimate the Commission has made of the cost associated with tabling of the questions. [42025]

John Thurso: The hon. Member for Hammersmith (Mr Slaughter) has tabled 390 questions for written answer since May 2010; the largest number tabled on a single day was 173, on 8 February 2011. As indicated in the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Mole Valley (Sir Paul Beresford) on 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 731-2W, the House Service estimates that the average cost of a printed question prior to answer in the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010 was £80.

SCOTLAND

Citizens Advice: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Citizens Advice Scotland on the effects of the recent recession on young people in Scotland. [41326]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland recently met representatives from Citizens Advice Scotland. A number of issues were discussed.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42617]

David Mundell: Other than minor purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. Adherence to the principles outlined in the Cabinet Office's publication, 'Principles of Good Employment Practice' would be an issue for those bodies letting the contracts.

Glasgow University: Finance

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers in the Scottish Executive, *(b)* representatives of Universities Scotland, *(c)* representatives of the university of Glasgow and *(d)* trade unions on the economic effects of planned reductions in funding for language courses at the university of Glasgow. [42803]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has regular discussions with representatives from Scotland's universities on a variety of matters. Higher education in Scotland is devolved and funding for Scottish universities is a matter for the Scottish Government. Universities are autonomous institutions and decisions on course provision are the responsibility of university courts.

Harassment

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has any plans to review the operation of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 as it applies to Scotland. [42827]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State has no plans to review Section 12 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. Sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 extend to Scotland only and are devolved to the Scottish Government.

Life Sciences

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* others on support for the life sciences in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [42070]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this issue. Scotland is home to the second largest life sciences cluster in the UK, and one of the most sizeable in Europe. With an established network of over 40 pharmaceutical clinical trials support and contract research organisations, more medical research is carried out per head of population in Scotland than anywhere else in Europe.

Scotland's strong academic base in the life science field is an important competitive advantage, with Scotland's universities accounting for 12% of UK research staff and funds, higher than Scotland's share of the UK population.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42610]

David Mundell: The Compact is an agreement between the Government, and its associated non-departmental public bodies, arm's length bodies and executive agencies, and civil society organisations (CSOs) in England. It aims to ensure that the Government and CSOs work effectively in partnership to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens. The Scottish Government has operational responsibilities for engagement with CSOs in Scotland and has its own arrangements in place. However, where the UK Government have responsibility for funding services provided by CSOs in Scotland, it will honour the commitments made in the Compact in relation to CSOs it funds.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42635]

David Mundell: I have had several meetings with individuals and organisations in Scotland about the Government's vision for the big society. On 23 February I hosted a roundtable meeting with a range of stakeholders to explore how the Government's vision interacts with what is going on in Scotland.

JUSTICE

Cartel Client Review

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Claims Management Regulation—Monitoring and Compliance Unit regarding Cartel Client Review; and if he will make a statement. [42024]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, to the hon. Member for Manchester Central (Tony Lloyd) in which I outlined the action taken by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) against Cartel Client Review Ltd.

When a business is cancelled, there is no further action that the Claims Management Regulator takes unless we have evidence that the business is trading without authorisation. The Regulator will assist other enforcement agencies as appropriate if further investigations or other actions against any business or individuals within the business are considered necessary.

Chelmsford Prison

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 215W, on Chelmsford Prison, for how long the tumble drier on E wing at HM Prison Chelmsford has been out of service; for what reason the action to repair it has not yet been carried out; which officer of HM Prison Service is responsible for the welfare of prisoners at HM Prison Chelmsford; and if he will make a statement. [42674]

Mr Blunt: The tumble driers at HMP Chelmsford were not in use for some time due to awaiting parts to carry out repairs, these have now been received and the tumble driers repaired and are now in working order for use by prisoners.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* budget for 2010-11 and *(b)* estimated budget for each of the next three years is for (i) the Legal Services Board, (ii) the Legal Services Commission, (iii) the Legal Services Consultative Panel, (iv) the National Archives, (v) the National Offender Management Service, (vi) the National Probation Service, (vii) the Northern Ireland Court Service, (viii) the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission, (ix) the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission, (x) the Offices of Courts Funds, (xi) the Office of the Information Commissioner, (xii) the Office of the Judge Advocate, (xiii) the General Office of the Judicial Committee, (xiv) the Office for Judicial Complaints, (xv) the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman, (xvi) the Office of the Public Guardian, (xvii) the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, (xviii) the Parole Board, (xix) the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, (xx) the Prison Service Pay Review Body, (xxi) the Scotland Office, (xxii) the Sentencing Council, (xxiii) the Tribunal Procedure Committee, (xiv) the Tribunals Service, (xv) the Victims' Commissioner, (xvi) the Wales Office and (xvii) the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. [42839]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is set out in the following table.

				£
Organisation	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Legal Services Board	138,000	Not yet allocated		
Legal Services Commission	2.2 billion	Not yet allocated		
Legal Services Consultative Panel	Ceased to exist on 1 January 2010			
The National Archives	Is funded directly by Parliament, not the MoJ			

Organisation	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	£ *2013-14*
National Offender Management Service	3 billion	Not yet allocated		
National Probation Service	862 million	Not yet allocated		
Northern Ireland Court Service	These sit with Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission	These sit with Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission	These sit with Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Offices of Court Funds (Court Funds Office)[1]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Office of the Information Commissioner	6.4 million	Not yet allocated		
Office of the Judge Advocate	Accounted for within HMCS budget			
General Office of the Judicial Committee	No matching body found			
Office for Judicial Complaints	950,000	862,000	Not yet allocated	
Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman	1.2 million	Not yet allocated		
Office of the Public Guardian	-1.6 million	Not yet allocated		
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	5 million	5.2 million	Not yet allocated	
Parole Board	10.2 million	10.5 million	Not yet allocated	
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman	6 million	Not yet allocated		
Prison Service Pay Review Body	This sits as part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.			
Scotland Office	34.2 million	Not yet allocated		
Sentencing Council	1.77 million	Not yet allocated		
Tribunal Procedure Committee	7,000	11,500	18,000	18,000
Tribunals Service	247 million	Abolished from 1 April 2011—work will be transferred to the new executive agency Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.		
Victims' Commissioner	950,000			Not yet allocated
Wales Office	5.6 million	Not yet allocated		
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales[2]	[2]418 million	Not yet allocated		

[1] The Court Funds Office is funded from interest from the Court Funds Investment Account.

[2] Additional funding also comes from the Home Office and the Department of Education.

Please note that future budgets are subject to change. Where "not yet allocated" is stated, this means that the budget allocation work is under way and progressing, and in some cases may be complete, but that the final figure is subject to formal approval. When all budgets have been formalised, I will write to the House and arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* budget for 2010-11 and *(b)* estimated budget for each of the next three years is for (i) the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council Advisory Committees on General Commissioners of Income Tax (Northern Ireland), (ii) Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace, (iii) the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives, (iv) the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information, (v) the Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice, (vi) the Civil Justice Council, (vii) the Civil Procedure Rule Committee, (viii) the Courts Boards, (ix) the Criminal Cases Review Commission, (x) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, (xi) the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee, (xii) the Crown Court Rule Committee, (xiii) the Family Justice Council, (xiv) the Family Procedure Rule Committee, (xv) HM Courts Service, (xvi) HM Inspectorate of Court Administration, (xvii) HM Inspectorate of Prisons, (xviii) HM Inspectorate of Probation, (xix) HM Land Registry, (xx) HM Prison Service, (xxi) the Insolvency Rules Committee, (xxii) the Judicial Appointments Commission, (xxiii) the Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman, (xxiv) the Judicial Office for England and Wales, (xxv) the Land Registration Rule Committee and (xxvi) the Law Commission. **[42840]**

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The information requested is set out as follows.

Organisation	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	£ *2013-14*
Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council	1.3 million	682,000	Due to be abolished on 31 December 2011	
Advisory Committees on General Commissioners of Income Tax (Northern Ireland)	These sit with Northern Ireland, not the MoJ			
Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace	Information not held centrally as they are local to magistrates courts (HMCS)			
Advisory Council on National Records and Archives	Part of the National Archives			
Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information	Part of the National Archives			
Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice	46,000	Not yet allocated		
Civil Justice Council	322,000	147,000	Not yet allocated	
Civil Procedure Rule Committee	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Courts Boards	Accounted for within HMCS budget and to be abolished shortly			
Criminal Cases Review Commission	6.3 million	5.9 million	Not yet allocated	

£

Organisation	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	277.5 million	200.2 million	Not yet allocated	
Criminal Procedure Rule Committee	[1]261,000	Not yet allocated		
Crown Court Rule Committee	6.1 million	6.3 million	Not yet allocated	
Family Justice Council	302,000k	257,400	Not yet allocated	
Family Procedure Rule Committee	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
HM Courts Service	874.5 million	Abolished from 1 April 2011—work will be transferred to the new executive agency Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service		
HM Inspectorate of Court Administration	1.6 million	HMICA was abolished on 31 December 2010		
HM Inspectorate of Prisons	3.8 million	Not yet allocated		
HM Inspectorate of Probation	4 million	Not yet allocated		
HM Land Registry	Is funded directly by Parliament, not the MoJ			
HM Prison Service	Accounted for within NOMS budget (PQ 42839)			
Insolvency Rules Committee	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Judicial Appointments Commission	6.9 million	5.5 million	Not yet allocated	
Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman	591,000	534,000	Not yet allocated	
Judicial Office for England and Wales	14 million	12.3 million	Not yet allocated	
Land Registration Rule Committee	Associated with HM Land Registry			
Law Commission	388,000	Not yet allocated		

[1] Includes secretariat support from MoJ estimated at £251,000.

Please note that future budgets are subject to change. Where "not yet allocated" is stated, this means that the budget allocation work is under way and progressing, and in some cases may be complete, but that the final figure is subject to formal approval. When all budgets have been formalised, I will write to the House and arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences related to sex trafficking there were in each year since 2006. [41518]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants who were found guilty at all courts for offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in England and Wales, for the years 2006 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of defendants who were found guilty at all courts for offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in England and Wales, for the years 2006 to 2009[1,2,3]

Statute	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*
Sexual Offences Act 2003	15	15	24	23

[1] Includes offences under:
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.57
'Trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation'
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.58
'Trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation'
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.59
'Trafficking out of the UK for sexual exploitation'

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Legal Advice and Assistance: Telephone Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the costs of establishing the Community Legal Advice Helpline as the single gateway to civil legal aid services. [42257]

Mr Djanogly: We published impact assessments alongside the consultation paper that outline potential costs and benefits of the proposals.

Legal Aid

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for his Department's review of the responses to the recent consultation on proposals for the reform of the legal aid system in England and Wales. [42015]

Mr Djanogly: We will take all the time necessary to review responses. It would be foolhardy to place a deadline on this work as such an approach would pre-suppose a uniform time standard for each individual response, which would be inappropriate under the circumstances.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department are engaged in reviewing the responses to the recent consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales; what methodology will be used to analyse those responses; and how many staff will be deployed on analysis at each stage of the process. [42016]

Mr Djanogly: We have significant numbers of staff engaged on the consultation responses. The exact amount varies as we are being ably supported by colleagues from the Legal Services Commission where possible, though we have a substantial core team that is currently exclusively deployed on reviewing responses.

In terms of methodology, all responses are initially logged with transcripts of text transferred to the log. These data are then broken down by subject area, with summaries being produced for each question in the consultation, and by thematic area reflecting the chapters in the consultation paper eg alternative sources of funding. Both the logs and summaries are reviewed by policy teams so all suggestions and comments are factored into their thinking when developing proposals.

In addition, we are undertaking a numerical analysis of responses, although this is only possible where respondents have addressed specific questions. This will be published alongside the response to consultation in due course.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department worked primarily on legal aid matters in the latest period for which figures are available. [42017]

Mr Djanogly: There are 43 full-time equivalent members of staff currently employed on legal aid matters which include:

Legal Aid and Sentencing Bill

Legal Aid Reform consultation and legislation

Exceptional legal aid funding

Impact of other Government Departments policy on MoJ and Legal Aid Fund.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* legal firms, *(b)* individuals, *(c)* law centres, *(d)* citizens advice bureaux, *(e)* advocacy groups and *(f)* others responded to his Department's recent consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales. [42018]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation responses are still being processed, so we are not able to provide this information at this time. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested as soon as it is available.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for bringing forward legislative proposals arising from his Department's Green Paper on legal aid reform. [42237]

Mr Djanogly: We will bring forward legislative proposals to the House as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve access to mediation services as part of his legal aid reforms. [42243]

Mr Djanogly: The Government propose to retain legal aid for mediation in family matters. The 2010 bid round run by the Legal Services Commission saw an 11% increase in the number of mediation providers, with 201 organisations providing services in 1,002 locations across England and Wales. The Government are also working with the Family Mediation Council to ensure there is sufficient mediator provision and to increase awareness of mediation for the future.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the five highest amounts of legal aid paid in respect of a single case were in the last 10 years; and in which areas of law these cases were brought. [42245]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available as it involves matching data in different formats from several current and legacy schemes. The information therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England received legal aid in each of the last five years. [42272]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The following tables show the volumes of legal aid granted based on legal aid providers with postcodes falling within the constituencies of *(a)* Coventry North West, Coventry North East and Coventry South *(b)* the West Midlands region and *(c)* England.

The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone advice, Community Legal Advice Centres, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme, telephone triage, or family mediation. These figures are unavailable on a regional basis.

Coventry constituencies—legal aid volumes

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	1,100	1,040	907	950	1,007
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	4,901	4,673	4,213	4,379	4,330
Crime Lower claim volumes	9,165	8,809	7,457	7,710	7,362

Coventry constituencies—legal aid volumes

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Crime Higher case volumes	844	837	933	992	951
Total	16,010	15,379	13,510	14,031	13,650

West Midlands region—legal aid volumes

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	14,603	14,256	12,960	13,865	13,155
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	68,777	69,282	66,901	73,939	62,917
Crime Lower claim volumes	139,368	133,966	121,766	125,404	97,734
Crime Higher case volumes	10,567	11,103	11,629	12,274	12,462
Total	233,315	228,607	213,256	225,482	186,268

England—legal aid volumes

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	145,870	143,114	129,782	137,888	149,892
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	660,004	688,034	668,339	744,880	746,855
Crime Lower claim volumes	1,149,853	1,098,147	1,024,112	1,120,554	1,092,816
Crime Higher case volumes	135,233	139,023	143,631	154,414	156,697
Total	2,090,960	2,068,318	1,965,864	2,157,736	2,146,260

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on measures to mitigate the effects on individuals of legal aid reform. [42347]

Mr Djanogly: Extensive discussions, at both ministerial and official levels, have been conducted with other Government Departments on a range of issues. These discussions will continue as we finalise proposals.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has estimated the effects on the public purse of the provision of early advice to individuals through the legal aid system. [42348]

Mr Djanogly: No such assessment has been made, and nor would it be possible to do so with any degree of accuracy.

Legal Services Commission: Complaints

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* grievances and *(b)* complaints were made by personnel at the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to the LSC in each year for which figures are available; how many such complaints were (i) upheld and (ii) dismissed; and what the (A) financial and (B) other consequences for the LSC were in each case. [41694]

Mr Djanogly: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 there were 17 grievances. Between 1 April 2010 and 7 February 2011 there were 11 grievances, with the following outcomes:

	Number
Upheld in full	1
Partially upheld	3
Not upheld	6
Result outstanding	1

There were no financial consequences for the LSC. In two instances, LSC policies were clarified to staff.

Legal Services Commission: Disciplinary Proceedings

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many personnel employed by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) have been subject to disciplinary action by the LSC in each year for which figures are available; and what action was taken in each case. [41691]

Mr Djanogly: The LSC employs around 1,500 staff. Between 1 April 2010 and 7 February 2011 there were five disciplinary cases, of which three resulted in the members of staff receiving first written warnings.

The LSC started recording information in relation to disciplinary cases in a centralised system in April 2010. Prior to that, records were kept on individual employee files in various local offices. The information could not therefore be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Legal Services Commission: Standards

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what obligations are placed on personnel of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to perform their work with reasonable care and skill; what action the LSC may take against any personnel in breach of such obligations and whether the LSC can take action to recover any losses to the LSC and those dealing with it in consequence of such failings; [41692]

(2) when and by what means the Legal Services Commission assessed the *(a)* skill and *(b)* competence of its personnel responsible for the 2010 tenders; and what account that assessment took of the comments on its personnel by the Divisional Court. [41734]

Mr Djanogly: Like most public sector organisations, the LSC has human resources policies and procedures to ensure that staff perform effectively in their roles. These include job descriptions, recruitment and selection processes, training and development and performance management through regular discussions with line managers. Front line staff are subject to a range of quality control measures on a regular basis, the results of which are fed into their performance management discussions.

Actions taken where a performance issue is identified can range from assessing training needs to disciplinary proceedings and even dismissal, depending on the different circumstances.

If a member of staff is found to have committed an offence relating to their work, the LSC or another party could take legal action to recover any losses.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what performance appraisals have been undertaken in respect of *(a)* the Chair, *(b)* the Chief Executive, *(c)* other Commissioners, *(d)* each Executive Director and *(e)* each National Relationship Director of the Legal Services Commission since 1 January 2009; (i) when, (ii) how and (iii) by whom each such assessment was carried out; and what the results were in each case. [41729]

Mr Djanogly: The process for performance appraisals is as follows: *(a)* the Secretary of State for Justice undertakes the performance appraisal for the Chair; *(b)* the Chair undertakes the performance appraisal for the Chief Executive; *(c)* the Chair undertakes the performance appraisal for other Commissioners; *(d)* the Chief Executive undertakes the performance appraisal for each Executive Director and *(e)* the Executive Director Commissioning undertakes the performance appraisals for each National Relationship Director of the Legal Services Commission. Appraisals are conducted annually. The results of appraisals are confidential.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) on 4 January 2011 with regard to Mrs C. A. Beevers. [41273]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I replied to the right hon. Member on 15 February. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the letters of *(a)* 16 December 2010, *(b)* 13 January 2011 and *(c)* 1 February 2011 from the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) on Mr Keith Nicholson. [42349]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I replied to the right hon. Member on 17 February. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Next of Kin

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department takes to verify claims to be next of kin of those who die intestate; and if he will make a statement. [42166]

Mr Djanogly: Under the law of England and Wales, entitlement to inherit or to administer the estate of a person who dies intestate is determined by the order of priority specified in the Administration of Estates Act 1925 and the Non-Contentious Probate Rules 1987 respectively. Authority to administer the estate is conferred by the court through letters of administration.

Any disputed claims to administer the estate or to inherit would ultimately have to be resolved by the court on the application of the interested parties. The Ministry of Justice does not verify such claims.

Reoffenders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the level of reoffending of those convicted of shop theft; and if he will make a statement. [42050]

Mr Blunt: The most recent published data for the 2008 cohort show that the one year re-conviction rate for adults convicted of theft was 65.2%. Within this group the re-conviction rate for adults convicted of shoplifting was 78.3%. The cohort includes adult offenders discharged from custody or commencing a court order between January and March of 2008. These are the latest available published data.

More information on the reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sexual Offences Act 2003: Convictions

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there have been for offences under *(a)* section 16, *(b)* section 17, *(c)* section 18 and *(d)* section 19 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each year since those sections same into force; how many of those convicted were teachers in each year; and if he will make a statement. [42258]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, in England and Wales for the year 2004-09 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in the statute, this information does not include the circumstances of each case. It is not possible from these centrally held data to identify the defendant's professional status.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003[1, 2], in England and Wales for the year 2004-09[3, 4, 5]

Sexual Offences Act 2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[6]*	*2009*
Section 16						
Proceeded against	3	11	13	14	11	20
Found guilty	3	12	12	12	13	12

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003[1, 2], in England and Wales for the year 2004-09[3, 4, 5]

Sexual Offences Act 2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[6]	*2009*
Section 17						
Proceeded against	1	0	5	2	8	12
Found guilty	0	2	4	3	2	8
Section 18						
Proceeded against	0	0	2	0	1	1
Found guilty	0	0	2	1	1	0
Section 19						
Proceeded against	1	1	0	1	0	2
Found guilty	0	0	0	2	2	3
England and Wales (Sections 16 to 19)						
Total proceeded against	5	12	20	17	20	35
Total found guilty	3	14	18	18	18	23

[1] Includes the following offences:
Sexual Offences Act 2003
Section 16
S.16(1)(e)(ii) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: sexual activity with a child—offender 18 or over and victim under 13.
Section 17
S.17(1)(e)(i) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity—offender 18 or over and victim 13-17.
S.17(1)(e)(ii) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity—offender 18 or over and victim under 13.
Section 18
S.18(1)(f)(i) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: sexual activity in the presence of a child—offender 18 or over and victim 13-17.
S.18(1)(f)(ii) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: sexual activity in the presence of a child—offender 18 or over and victim under 13.
Section 19
S.19(1)(e)(i) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: causing a child to watch a sexual act—offender 18 or over and victim 13-17.
S.19(1)(e)(ii) and (2)-(5)
Abuse of a position of trust: causing a child to watch a sexual act—offender 18 or over and victim under 13.

[2] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year; or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those injured in the London 7/7 bombings have received the maximum payment allowed under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; [42251]

(2) how many of those injured in the London 7/7 bombings and who have claimed compensation have been paid at the level of the cap on such payments. [42252]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Five people injured in the London bombings have received the maximum payment under the scheme, which is half a million pounds.

War Crimes: Prosecutions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many war criminals were prosecuted following an investigation by the Metropolitan police in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [42043]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

There has been one such prosecution that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) would categorise as a war crime in the last 10 years. Faryadi Zardad was prosecuted and convicted of conspiracy to take hostages and conspiracy to torture in 2005 after a Metropolitan police investigation. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.

PRIME MINISTER

Childhood and Families Ministerial Taskforce

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on which dates the Childhood and Families Taskforce has met; which Ministers were in attendance on each such occasion; and who else attended; [41866]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of reference of the Childhood and Families Taskforce; [41867]

(3) when he expects the Childhood and Families Taskforce to report; [41868]

(4) whether the Childhood and Families Taskforce will be taking *(a)* oral and *(b)* written evidence in the course of its work. [41869]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 24W.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Attorney-General which services provided by the Law Officers' Departments' interpreters are in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42220]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not employ staff specifically to undertake translation duties. When translation services are required they are commissioned from commercial translation service providers. Records are not kept centrally on the frequency of languages used by interpreters or how many interpreters are contracted for each language. Such information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Recorded costs incurred by the Law Officers' Departments on translation services during the last full financial year are contained in the following table:

Translation costs 2009-10

	£
Crown Prosecution Service[1]	1,679,594
Serious Fraud Office	172,956
Treasury Solicitor's Department[2]	187,621

[1] Includes costs for sign language interpreters.

[2] Includes data for Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

No costs for translation services have been separately recorded by the National Fraud Authority (NFA) during this period. However, Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre run by the NFA, operates a Contact Centre as part of its service. The Action Fraud Contact Centre provider subcontracts a language interpretation service for telephone calls received in languages other than English. Welsh speakers at the Contact Centre provide translations for contacts received in Welsh, at no extra cost to the NFA.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General what regulations his Department introduced between 30 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42084]

The Solicitor-General: None.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Photographs

Mr Buckland: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take on the labelling of airbrushed photographs in the media. [41614]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have no plans to label airbrushed photographs in the media.

The Government are committed to bringing together the industry, experts and campaigners to work together to tackle low levels of body confidence. I am working with experts in this area, and relevant industries, to identify non-legislative ways of tackling this issue.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 133W, on pay: equal opportunities, what the average salary was of employees of the Equality and Human Rights Commission who were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* of each ethnicity and *(d)* in each category of disability in the latest period for which figures are available. [42753]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

Based on the salaries of EHRC employees as at 31 March 2010 (the most recent information available) the average annual salaries of the employee groups requested are:

	£
Male	36,100
Female	34,300
Black Minority Ethnic (BME)[1]	32,500
Disability[2]	33,500

[1] The EHRC calculates an overall ethnicity pay gap for all BME employees. They do not calculate average salaries for each ethnic group.

[2] EHRC does not ask individuals to declare the nature of their disability when disclosing their monitoring.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the objectives are of the UK delegation at the forthcoming session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. [41946]

Lynne Featherstone: The UN Commission on the Status of Women is recognised worldwide as being the major international forum to progress women's rights. The UK delegation's objectives will be to ensure that the Government's commitment to promote rights internationally, as outlined in the Equality Strategy and the Department for International Development's Structural Reform Plan, are reflected in the Resolutions adopted and in joint statements by the European Union.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be represented at the 55th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women; and which NGOs participated in the 54th session. [41947]

Lynne Featherstone: The following list gives the UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) due to be represented at the 55th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (known at the time of writing) and those represented at the 54th session last year that we were aware of:

CSW55—2011

National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO)
Widows for Peace through Democracy
Soroptimist International
Widows Rights International
UN Women UK
Womankind Worldwide
International Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women Great Britain
Baha'i International
Northern Ireland Women
European Platform
Hope Medical and Educational Enterprises
Voluntary Services Overseas
Scottish Women's Convention
UK Resource Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology
International Federation of University Women
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
UNAMINA

CSW54—2010

National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO)
Widows for Peace through Democracy
Soroptimist International
Widows Rights International
UN Women UK
Womankind Worldwide
International Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women Great Britain
Baha'i International
Northern Ireland Women
European Platform
Hope Medical and Educational Enterprises
Voluntary Services Overseas
Scottish Women's Convention
UK Resource Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology
International Federation of University Women
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
UNAMINA
Older Women's Network
The Haven Wolverhampton
Sudanese mothers for Peace
UNA-UK
Business and Professional Women UK
Gender Statistics Users Group
Amnesty International UK
Open Democracy
Women Making a Difference Project
Race on the Agenda
Engender
Welsh Assembly of Women
Oxfam
FORWARD

Women's National Commission

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she plans to consult on the new arrangements for the discharge of the functions undertaken by the Women's National Commission. [42713]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has started developing a new approach to enable women and women's organisations to interact more closely and directly with Government. We will be consulting on the new approach soon; this will include how we engage with the former Women's National Commission (WNC) partners and reach a wider range of women and women's organisations.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Questions

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations he has received to review the cost arising from the tabling of large numbers of questions for written answers by hon. Members. [42678]

Sir George Young: My office receives regular representations about the impact on the work of Departments of the large volume of questions for written answer.

HM Treasury regularly estimates the average cost of producing a written answer. The current average is £154, but Ministers will answer all questions where the cost of answering does not exceed the disproportionate cost threshold, which is currently set at £800 per question.

The following table gives the estimated total cost of responding to written questions for each financial year from 2005-06 to 2009-10:

Financial year	*Number of written answers published*	*Estimated average cost (£)*	*Estimated total cost (£ million)*
2005-06	61,477	[1]134 to 140	8.38
2006-07	63,451	140	8.88
2007-08	63,641	[2]140 to 149	9.05
2008-09	73,601	149	10.97
2009-10	55,615	[3]149 to 154	8.34

[1] From 15 November 2006.
[2] From 3 December 2008.
[3] From 20 January 2010.

The figures in the table do not include the costs to the House of processing and printing questions and their answers. These costs are a matter for the House of Commons Commission.

WALES

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what account she has taken of the Compact between the Government and civil society in policy development. [42611]

Mr David Jones: The Compact between the Government and civil society organisations is accompanied by guidance on accountability and transparency to ensure that Government Departments as well as civil society organisations are clear about the level of commitment and the implications of not following the Compact.

Where the coalition Government interact with civil society organisations in Wales, they will honour the commitments made in the Compact. The Welsh Assembly Government have operational responsibility for engagement with civil society organisations in areas where policy responsibility is devolved and have existing arrangements for engagement with civil society organisations. The Compact does not override these arrangements.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of her Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42655]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I are actively involved with numerous charities on a private basis as detailed in the list of Ministers' interests, recently published by the Cabinet Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Public Participation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 797-98W, on arts: public participation, what activities his Department's Taking Part survey monitors other than those cited in the answer. [42691]

Mr Vaizey: The Taking Part Survey collects data on the following arts activities/events:

Participation

dance—live performance or rehearsal/practice (ballet, other dance but not for fitness);

singing—live performance or rehearsal/practice (not karaoke);

musical instrument—live performance, rehearsal/practice or played for own pleasure;

written music;

theatre—live performance or rehearsal/practice (e.g. play or drama);

opera/musical theatre—live performance or rehearsal/practice;

carnival;

street arts (art in everyday surroundings like parks, streets, shopping centre);

circus (not animals);

visual art (e.g. painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture);

photography (as an artistic activity, not family or holiday 'snaps');

film or video-making as an artistic activity (not family or holidays);

digital art—producing original digital artwork or animation;

craft—any craft activity (e.g. textiles, wood, metal work, pottery, calligraphy etc.);

creative writing—original literature (e.g. stories, poems or plays); and

being a member of a book club.

Attendance

visual art exhibition (e.g. paintings, photography or sculpture);

craft exhibition (not crafts market);

event which included video or digital art;

culturally specific festival (e.g. Mela, Baisakhi, Navratri);

theatre (e.g. play, drama, pantomime);

opera/musical theatre;

street arts (art in everyday surroundings like parks, streets or shopping centre);

circus (not animals);

carnival;

live music performance (e.g. classical, jazz or other live music event but not karaoke);

live dance event (e.g. ballet, African People's dance, South Asian, Chinese, contemporary or other live dance); and

event connected with books or writing

The survey also asks about attendance at museums and galleries, heritage sites and libraries, and asks about participation in a range of sports. The 2009-10 publication and associated data worksheets are available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7386.aspx

The data can be analysed further using NetQuest at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/6762.aspx

Links from this page provide further background information on the survey and links to the detailed questionnaires.

Broadband: North Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria he applied when selecting the North Wales pilot area for superfast broadband announced on 10 February 2011. [41688]

Mr Vaizey: North Wales is not a pilot area but will form part of the Welsh Assembly Government broadband programme for Wales. The £10 million funding announced by the Chancellor will help bring superfast broadband to hard-to-reach areas and extend superfast broadband to Pwllheli and the surrounding areas of North Wales. The spending allocation was in line with Broadband Delivery UK modelling.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the Welsh Assembly Government prior to selecting the superfast broadband pilot area in North Wales announced on 10 February 2011. [41689]

Mr Vaizey: North Wales is not a pilot area. It forms part of the Welsh Assembly Government's broadband project for Wales.

Broadband: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency, *(b)* East Ayrshire and *(c)* Scotland with a broadband connection speed of less than 2 megabits per second. [42008]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is working with the relevant authorities to accurately assess the current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the coalition Government's objective to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2Mbps and achieve the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

City Television Stations

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the introduction of city television stations. [42000]

Mr Vaizey: We are currently consulting industry and the public on the Local Media Action Plan. The Plan invites 'Expressions of Interest' from organisations interested in bidding to run a new network channel that will support local services. The formal award process for the new channel is expected to begin this summer.

Departmental Business Interests

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he discussed with Ofcom the appropriateness of its Director of Technology Resources responsible for promoting white space devices taking up the post of Chief Technical Officer at a mobile wireless data service provider; and if he will make a statement; [41193]

(2) whether Ofcom took steps to remove responsibility for white space devices from the Director of Technology Resources once he had agreed to take up the post of Chief Technical Officer at a mobile wireless data service provider; and if he will make a statement. [41194]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not discussed this matter with Ofcom. However, Ofcom has confirmed that as soon as the Director of Technology accepted an offer of employment at a mobile wireless data provider, he was removed from any involvement on Ofcom's work on white space devices.

Licensing

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated any research on the potential benefits to the public of allocating spectrum in the 872/917 band for machine-to-machine and smart grid application. [41743]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any research, to determine the potential benefits of allocating this band for these applications.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to address the conclusions of the National Audit Office's report on preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, HC (2010-11) 756 in respect of *(a)* the regeneration of East London, *(b)* the sustainability of the Olympic Park and *(c)* the provision of economic, social and sport participation legacies; and if he will make a statement. [43007]

Hugh Robertson: As is usual parliamentary practice in relation to National Audit Office reports, Departments do not comment or respond to them in advance of a Public Account Committee (PAC) hearing. As there is a PAC hearing on the report scheduled for 21 March, the Government will consider the recommendations and respond in the usual way.

Olympic Games 2012 : Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons no improvements in sports facilities in Northern Ireland have been scheduled as part of the plans for the London 2012 Olympics. [41798]

Hugh Robertson: Responsibility for sports facilities in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive and Sport Northern Ireland.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the *(a)* First Minister and *(b)* Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure in the Northern Ireland Executive on the inclusion of Northern Ireland in the planning for the London 2012 Olympics. [41799]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Hunt) has not met the First Minister or the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to discuss the inclusion of Northern Ireland in the planning for the London 2012 Olympics. However, the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure and I are both members of the Sport Cabinet, at which we discussed the Olympics on 15 February. In addition, the Torch will visit all nations, including Northern Ireland, during the 2012 Torch Relay, and a Live Site is planned for Belfast during the games.

Public Libraries

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people who volunteered and *(b)* hours given by volunteers in public libraries in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [41974]

Mr Vaizey: Data showing the number of library volunteers in England are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in their annual Public Library Statistics. Copies are available in the House Libraries. In 2009-10 there were 16,710 volunteers in libraries in England. They contributed 528,718 volunteer hours.

Radio Frequencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment Ofcom has made of the potential to allocate spectrum in the 872/917 band on an unlicensed or lightly-licensed basis for machine-to-machine and smart grid applications. [41775]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom published a consultation on the 872/917 MHz band in August 2009 which set out two general approaches to authorisation of these bands:

> A full licensing approach: under which a single or limited number of licences are awarded, e.g. a national licence that would support wide area network applications such as mobile communications, potentially awarded via an auction;
>
> A light regulatory approach: in which individual transmitters are authorised without limitation on their numbers, either under a licence exempt regime, or under a light licensing regime. Both machine to machine and smart grid would be potential technologies under this approach.

In the responses to the consultation, stakeholders were split between the uses of this band and it was unclear which approach should be taken.

Ofcom's future work on this band will include further analysis into the potential to allocate spectrum in the 872/917 MHz band on an unlicensed or lightly-licensed basis for machine to machine and smart grid applications.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions he has had on a second digital dividend; and if he will make a statement; [42100]

(2) what estimate his Department and Ofcom have made of the likely financial benefits of a second digital dividend; and if he will make a statement. [42110]

Mr Vaizey: I have noted that the European Commission's Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, currently under discussion with member states, has raised the possibility of considering the release of spectrum immediately below 790 MHz, known as the second digital dividend, in the longer term. This spectrum is used in the UK, as in other countries in the EU, for digital terrestrial television services. Any proposal to change must take into account the full economic and social impact of both the future use of the spectrum, and of making the change.

The timing of any formal discussion on the so-called 700 MHz band is unclear, and is not the immediate focus of the proposed Commission Radio Spectrum Programme or any other initiative we know about. I would expect the Commission to produce a thorough impact assessment, including the potential costs and benefits, as the basis for any future discussions of potential alternative uses of this spectrum.

There is much else in the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme that needs to be agreed and delivered in the short term and I expect that to be the focus in the immediate future.

I have yet to have any discussions with interested parties in the UK specifically on the second digital dividend, but will continue to engage with current spectrum users and those interested in future use of the spectrum so as to make sure that the UK can derive the most economic and social benefit from its use.

Sports: Health

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last met with the Scottish Government Minister for Public Health and Sport; and what matters were discussed. [42007]

Hugh Robertson: As Minister for Sport and the Olympics, I met with the Scottish Government Minister for Public Health and Sport on Tuesday 15 February in Cardiff at the Sports Cabinet. The meeting also involved the other devolved Administrations' Ministers with responsibility for Sport and the Chairs of the Sports Councils. The agenda items were: UK Sport/Sport England Merger, School Games, British Winter Sports Institute, whether Team GB should be changed to Team UK, National Governing Bodies' Governance and 2012 Legacy issues.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a levy is being imposed on aggregate extraction. [42433]

Justine Greening: There is no levy imposed on extraction of aggregates in the UK. The aggregates levy, introduced in 2002, is charged on each tonne of virgin aggregate at the first point of commercial exploitation.

Biofuels: Finance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to support the development of the bioethanol sector. [42988]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Totnes (Dr Wollaston) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 551W.

Capital Gains Tax: Forests

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether private companies which purchase land sold under the Government's proposals for the disposal of the public forest estate will be liable for capital gains tax on profits arising from the use of such land. [41949]

Mr Gauke: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 17 February that the Government's proposals on the future management and ownership of the public forest estate are withdrawn.

Carbon Emissions

Nia Griffith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the consultation period on the proposed carbon price support did not last 12 weeks. [41808]

Justine Greening: The Code of Practice on Consultation acknowledges that shorter periods will at times be necessary. The consultation was published together with proposals to reform the UK's electricity market on 16 December.

An eight-week consultation was necessary to ensure the Government could meet their commitment, announced in Budget 2010, to introduce legislation in the Finance Bill 2011.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons draft legislation on the Carbon Price Support was published in advance of the consultation process. [41917]

Justine Greening: The draft legislation was made available on 26 January 2011, before the consultation closed. Exposing the draft legislation allowed for public scrutiny in advance of the Budget, which is in line with HM Treasury's new approach to tax policy making.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a floor price for carbon; and what estimate he has made of the optimal floor price. [42677]

Justine Greening: An in-depth assessment of the costs and benefits of introducing a floor price for carbon is set out in the consultation document published on 16 December. The consultation sets out three indicative floor price scenarios in 2020 and the Government are seeking views from the public and industry on the optimal level. Copies are available in the Library of the House or online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_carbon_price_support.htm

Child Benefit

Karl Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential savings to the Exchequer of withdrawing child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer if the higher rate threshold were £38,600. [35922]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 26 January 2011]*: The Government announced in the spending review that withdrawing child benefit from families with a higher rate taxpayer would save £2.5 billion from 2014-15. This information can be found on page 12 of the spending review document at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_completereport.pdf

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households his Department estimates will face losses of *(a)* under £5, *(b)* £5 to £10, *(c)* £10 to £20 and *(d)* £20 and over a week as a result of the reduction of the child care tax credit. [41447]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 17 February 2011]*: No estimate has been made.

The reduction of child care support to 70% from 80% is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of reducing the second income threshold for the family element of the child tax credit from £50,000 to £40,000 on the weekly income of a family earning *(a)* £42,500, *(b)* £43,000 and *(c)* £43,500 in 2011-12. [41687]

Mr Gauke: The reduction of the second threshold to £40,000 is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the emergency Budget and spending review.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the packages of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

Climate Change Levy

Nia Griffith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans for further reform of the climate change levy; and whether he plans to align the environmental taxes levied on fuels with their environmental impact. [41776]

Justine Greening: Announcements on tax are a matter for the Chancellor to make at Budget.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42630]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury regularly reviews the established policies in place for employment terms and conditions to ensure they adhere to best practice and legal requirements.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average his Department took to respond to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [42248]

Justine Greening: The Ministry of Justice publishes regular quarterly and annual figures on the responses Government Departments make to Freedom of Information requests. These show performance against the statutory 20-working-day target. The most recent publication covers the period up to the end of the third quarter, 2010. HM Treasury's data are as follows:

HM Treasury

Percentage

	Q1 January to March	*Q2 April to June*	*Q3 July to September*	*Q4 October to December*
2008	—	—	99	100
2009	99	100	98	99
2010	99	99	99	—

The full report can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/foi-stats-bulletin-q3-2010.pdf

The above table can be found on page 20.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects to respond to the Freedom of Information request submitted to his Department by the hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) on 20 September 2010; [42249]

(2) for what reasons the Freedom of Information request submitted to his Department on 20 September 2010 by the hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford has not been responded to; and if he will make a statement. [42250]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury provided a response to seven of the 10 Freedom of Information requests received by the hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford on 20 September 2010 within the statutory 20-working-day deadline. For the remaining three requests the deadline was extended as permitted by the Act to consider the public interest. HM Treasury replied to these requests on 25 February 2011.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42890]

Justine Greening: Translators are engaged on a temporary basis when required. No interpreters are permanently employed by the Treasury or any of its associated public bodies. In 2009-10, one translator was engaged by the Treasury to translate from Chinese at a cost of £145.00. No other spending on translators was incurred in 2009-10.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31920]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has not provided any media briefings with or without embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations his Department introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42077]

Justine Greening: Between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011, my Department has introduced the following statutory instruments:

The Iran (European Union Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2010 (SI no. 2010/2937)

The Somalia (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2010 (SI no. 2010/2956)

The Financial Markets and Insolvency (Settlement Finality and Financial Collateral Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI no. 2010/2993)

The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Administration Orders Relating to Insurers) Order 2010 (SI no. 2010/3023)

The Electronic Money Regulations 2011 (SI no. 2011/99)

The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Order 2011 (SI no. 2011/133)

The Investment Bank (Amendment of Definition) Order 2011 (SI no. 2011/239)

The Investment Bank Special Administration Regulations 2011 (SI no. 2011/245)

Devolution

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals he has for future end-year flexibility for the *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* Scottish and Northern Ireland devolved Administrations. [41911]

Danny Alexander: Spending plans announced in the Government's 2010 spending review require a robust framework of spending control. The end-year flexibility (EYF) system which allows departments and the devolved Administrations to carry forward unspent budget provisions into future years to discourage wasteful end-year spending has in practice, led to accumulated stocks that would further increase the deficit if they were spent. Therefore the Government plan to replace the existing EYF system from 2011-12. Further details of the new system will be set out later this year.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and *(b)* Ministers of other devolved Administrations on proposed changes to the rules regarding end-year flexibility. [41912]

Danny Alexander: Delivering the spending plans announced in the Government's 2010 spending review will require a robust framework to control spending. The end-year flexibility (EYF) system which allows Departments and the devolved Administrations to carry forward unspent budget provisions into future years to discourage wasteful end-year spending has, in practice, led to accumulated stocks that would further increase the deficit if they were spent. The Government plan to abolish the existing EYF system at the end of 2010-11 and replace it with a new system from 2011-12 which will retain an incentive to avoid wasteful end-year spending and strengthen spending control.

In past discussion with the devolved Administrations it was agreed during the spending review that the devolved Administrations can carry forward planned reductions in spending from 2010-11 to 2011-12 if they wish, and the Government will, stand by their existing commitment to the Northern Ireland Executive to draw down end-year flexibility (EYF) in the current year and their commitment to carry forward underspends for the Department of Justice under the terms of the £800 million funding package which accompanied the devolution of policing and justice.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much end-year flexibility remains unspent by the Welsh Assembly Government. [41913]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury publish data for all UK Government Departments including the devolved Administrations in the 2009-10 Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper (Cm 7911).

Details of EYF draw-downs were included in written ministerial statements made at times during supplementary estimate rounds. Information on the Welsh Assembly Government EYF draw-down for 2010-11 was detailed in a written ministerial statement made on 14 February 2011.

Following the draw-down of EYF in 2010-11 spring supplementary estimate, WAG have a balance of undrawn EYF of £367,310,000 (£128,016,000 resource cash and £239,294,000 resource depreciation).

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the end-year flexibility relating to *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland was for each year since 1999-2000 for which figures are available. [41914]

Danny Alexander: Amounts eligible for carry forward under the departmental expenditure limit EYF scheme are published in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper (PEOWP). Copies of the 2001-02 to 2009-10 editions are on the Treasury's public website and may be viewed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pes_peowp.htm

A summary is shown in the following table.

Total EYF stocks for the devolved Administrations

£000

PEOWP edition	*Scottish Executive*	*Welsh Assembly Government*	*Northern Ireland Executive*
2001-02	695,805	377,942	337,716
2002-03	879,983	199,556	417,250
2003-04	1,209,581	286,657	483,635
2004-05	1,531,892	270,057	388,739
2005-06	1,453,698	425,864	394,313
2006-07	1,528,561	607,022	603,351
2007-08	952,282	899,913	714,207
2008-09	669,849	970,394	523,655
2009-10	366,835	594,376	624,478

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the current procedures are regarding the treatment of end-year flexibility monies between his Department and the devolved administrations. [41915]

Danny Alexander: In October 2010 HM Treasury published "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly Statement of Funding Policy". The statement represents the continuation of long-standing conventions that have guided funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Chapter 11 of this publication sets out the current arrangements regarding end-year flexibility for the devolved Administrations. This publication is in the public domain and can be found on the Treasury's public website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
spend_sr2010_fundingpolicy.htm

Excise Duties: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has assessed the merits of freezing fuel duty on liquefied petroleum gas until 2018. [42811]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 557W.

Exports: Alcoholic Drinks

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many litres of *(a)* beer and *(b)* wine the UK exports to other EU countries per annum; and what estimate he has made of the size of the legitimate market for (i) beer and (ii) wine in the EU in litres per annum; [41861]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 496W, on excise duties, what steps he is taking to tackle drawback duty fraud. [41937]

Justine Greening: Trade statistics on UK exports of beer and wine are published at:

www.uktradeinfo.com

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not hold figures on the estimated size of the legitimate market in the EU.

HMRC monitor and audit businesses making large volumes of drawback claims. Claims are selected for verification and actively challenged to ensure that all UK and EU conditions are met before a claim is authorised. HMRC also co-operate with authorities in other member states to validate drawback claims relating to supplies to businesses in the EU.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on implementation of the Retail Distribution Review; and if he will make a statement. [37483]

Mr Hoban: The Retail Distribution Review (RDR) is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), an independent body. The FSA will implement the RDR.

The FSA has published final rules in all the key areas of the RDR, which will take effect from 1 January 2013. It will start monitoring individual advisers more closely this year and tackle issues in conjunction with their firm and accredited body. The FSA will begin a nationwide programme of RDR roadshows for smaller firms later in the year and will also offer separate events for larger firms.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with his G20 counterparts recent progress on the work by the Financial Stability Board on improving consumer protection in financial services. [42204]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Stability Board (FSB) is currently developing a consultation on approaches to consumer protection. The UK is seeking to take a full role in the consultation process to inform the FSB's thinking, and that of other G20 members, and is currently in discussions with the FSB to determine how we can most effectively contribute.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the management and staff appointed to the Financial Services Authority are suitably experienced and qualified for the purposes of ensuring the integrity of financial services regulation. [42230]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent body and, as such, determines the appropriate qualification levels for its staff.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has discussed with *(a)* his US counterpart and *(b)* the Chair of the G20 Finance Ministers the findings and recommendations of Sir David Walker's report on the governance of banks and other financial institutions. [42283]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what governance arrangements he proposes for the *(a)* Prudential Regulatory Authority and *(b)* Financial Policy Committee; when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to establish these bodies; and if he will make a statement. [42559]

Mr Hoban: The Government set out proposals for reforming financial regulation—including the governance arrangements for the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Policy Committee—in a consultation document (Cm 8012) presented to Parliament on 17 February 2011. This document outlines the Government's intention to present a draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in the spring. Subject to parliamentary timetabling, the Government will introduce legislation to Parliament in mid-2011.

Fiscal Policy

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times and on what dates the Government breached the Golden Rule, as set out on page 16 of the Code for Fiscal Stability, since 1997. [41444]

Justine Greening: According to the March 2010 Budget, the previous Government met the Golden Rule over the previous economic cycle which ran from the first half of 1997 to the second half of 2006. Based on outturns for 2007-08 and 2008-09 for the current balance and forecasts to 2014-15 produced by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in their pre-Budget forecast, published on 14 June 2010, the previous Government were set to run deficits on the current balance in every year.

The OBR has not published estimates of the output gap prior to 2009. The estimates prior to 2009-10 are based on Treasury estimates of trend output and the output gap from the March Budget.

The OBR have indicated that they expect to publish analysis of the output gap prior to 2009 this year which will explore different methodologies for evaluating it.

Friendly Societies: Regulation

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed by the Financial Services Authority working on the regulation of friendly societies; and if he will make a statement. [42859]

Mr Hoban: The matter concerned is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has met *(a)* Sir John Vickers, *(b)* Hector Sants and *(c)* the Chief Executive of UK Financial Investments Ltd to discuss policy on building societies and friendly societies; and if he will make a statement. [42860]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Government Departments: Redundancy Pay

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many special severance payments have been reported to his Department to date; and what estimate he has made of the total monetary value of such payments for each Government department. [41953]

Danny Alexander: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I can confirm, however, that the Treasury takes this responsibility seriously, requiring Departments to be able to justify and defend payments in value for money terms taking account of legal risks, and to review HR systems if weaknesses are identified.

Income Tax

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency will no longer be subject to income tax following the increase in allowance in April 2011. [42029]

Mr Gauke: In the June 2010 Budget, it was estimated that 880,000 persons would be taken out of tax in the United Kingdom as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12. 734,000 of these individuals reside in England, of which 106,000 reside in the North West.

These estimate are based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12 in line with the June 2010 Budget assumptions. It is not possible to produce reliable estimates for parliamentary constituencies and counties (Cumbria and Westmorland and Lonsdale) due to small sample sizes at these levels of geography.

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency are in each income tax band. [42034]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the number of taxpayers in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-west, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency, categorised by their highest marginal tax rate for 2007-08, the latest year available, are provided in the following tables.

Table a: Number of taxpayers in England

Tax year 2007-08

	Number
Starting rate	2,850,000
Basic rate	20,900,000
Higher rate	3,360,000
All taxpayers	27,100,000

[1] Rounded to 3 significant figures

Table b: Number of taxpayers in the north-west region[1]

Tax year 2007-08

	Number
Starting rate	398,000
Basic rate	2,770,000
Higher rate	317,000
All taxpayers	3,490,000

[1] Rounded to 3 significant figures

Table c: Number of taxpayers in Cumbria[1]

Tax year 2007-08

	Number
Starting rate	37,000
Basic rate	218,000
Higher rate	20,000
All taxpayers	275,000

[1] Rounded to the nearest thousand

Table d: Number of taxpayers in Westmoreland and Lonsdale constituency[1]

Tax year 2007-08

	Number
Starting rate	6,000
Basic rate	43,000
Higher rate	5,000
All taxpayers	55,000

[1] Rounded to the nearest thousand

Notes:

1. Tables show number of taxpayers by their highest marginal tax rate.
2. Estimates at each rate may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source:

Survey of Personal Incomes, 2007-08

See:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/inc-distribution-note.pdf

Income Tax and National Insurance Contributions: Non-payment

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of employees who have paid national insurance contributions and income tax which have not been passed on to HM Treasury by employers in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [41959]

Justine Greening: The information requested is not available.

There is an in-built time lag between tax and national insurance being deducted from employees' pay under PAYE and it being paid over to HMRC. Monthly deductions are due by the 19 of each month—or the 22 when payments are made electronically.

For that reason there could be, at any given time, any number of employees who have had tax and NIC deducted but whose employers have not paid it over to HMRC as they are not yet required to do so.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many companies have been prosecuted for non-payment of income tax on behalf of employees in each region of the UK in each of the last five years; [41960]

(2) how many companies have been prosecuted for *(a)* non-payment of employee national insurance and *(b)* non-payment of employer national insurance in each region of the UK in each of the last five years. [[illegible]997]

Mr Gauke: The number of prosecutions arising from criminal investigations by HMRC into theft of deductions is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. Prosecutions are undertaken by the relevant independent prosecuting authorities.

The recovery of unpaid tax debt is a civil matter. In such cases HMRC seek action through the county court (in England and Wales), sheriff's court (in Scotland) and magistrates court (in Northern Ireland).

Individual Savings Accounts: Interest Rates

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will bring forward proposals to improve the interest rates offered on individual savings accounts; [42695]

(2) if he will assess the effect of present levels of inflation on the monetary value of savings in individual savings accounts. [42696]

Mr Hoban: The Bank of England is charged with meeting the Government's inflation target, helping to deliver price stability. The effect of inflation on the capital value of savings will also depend on the interest rate on the account.

The Bank of England has operational independence to set interest rates. Interest rates offered on individual savings accounts (ISAs) are a commercial decision for ISA providers.

A number of banks and other institutions offer interest rates significantly above the Bank of England base rate, and savers can ensure they get the best possible income from their savings by shopping around.

The Consumer Financial Education Body, soon to be known as the Money Advice Service, publishes comparative tables of savings accounts and the interest rates offered as part of its Moneymadeclear initiative.

The ISA industry has also agreed to publish interest rates on all ISA statements from April 2012. I believe that this increased transparency is an important step, and I have encouraged providers to do this sooner if possible.

Members: Correspondence

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North of 26 November 2010, regarding the retail distribution review and independent financial advisers. [38566]

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letter to him dated *(a)* 5 November 2010 and *(b)* 13 January 2011 with regard to his constituent Mr Brian Neilson. [41999]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 21 February to set out the Government's overall position on retail distribution review. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 11 November 2010 with regard to Ms K. Chung. [41271]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) sent a detailed response to the right hon. Gentleman on 23 December 2010 explaining that they were replying on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

HMRC has posted a copy to the right hon. Gentleman's parliamentary office as it would appear he did not receive the original letter.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 11 January 2011 with regard to Mr J D Remington. [42808]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 4 January 2011 with regard to Mr J Burchardt. [42809]

Justine Greening: I wrote to all hon. and right hon. Members on 21 February to set out the Government's overall position on fuel duty related issues. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that Members may have raised.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further representations he has received on regions which have not been included in the national insurance holiday scheme since 15 January 2011; and whether he has given further consideration to extending the scheme. [40991]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury receives a wide range of representations on matters covering its responsibilities. In keeping with the custom of successive Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details.

The objective of the scheme is to support the transition to a more sustainable model of economic growth by reducing labour costs in those regions currently most reliant on public sector employment. In considering how best to meet this objective, the Government have therefore not given further consideration to extending it to regions least reliant on public sector employment.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many special severance payments were reported to his Department by *(a)* NHS acute trusts, *(b)* foundation trusts, *(c)* mental health trusts, *(d)* special health authorities, *(e)* strategic health authorities, *(f)* primary care trusts, *(g)* ambulance trusts and *(h)* care trusts in the last three years; and what the total (i) monetary value and (ii) number of payments was for each organisation in each such year. [41938]

Danny Alexander: The information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department of Health, the right hon. Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns) on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 428-30W.

Pensions

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to review closed direction pensions transfers; [41026]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of closed direction pensions transfers for employees moving between the public sector and a social enterprise on *(a)* affordability of public sector pensions and *(b)* competition between providers of public services; [41027]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of uncapped defined benefit public sector pension schemes on labour market mobility; and if he will make a statement. [41028]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 17 February 2011]*: The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission is considering which organisations should have access to public service schemes, as set out in its Terms of Reference. Its final report is expected before Budget.

The commission's report concluded that current pension structures, combined with the requirement to provide broadly comparable pensions under the Fair Deal policy, are a barrier to non-public service providers, potentially reducing the efficiencies and innovation in public service delivery that could be achieved. In response, the Government announced they would review the Fair Deal policy, to report by summer 2011.

In addition, the interim report concluded there is a need to facilitate, or at least not prevent, many different ways of providing public services and mobility between public and private sectors but that extending access to public service pension schemes for non-public service employees does not appear to offer a long-term sustainable solution.

Personal Income

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many single parent families resident in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England he expects to have their annual income reduced as a result of implementation of the proposed changes to child benefit. [24475]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income and composition for single parent child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency or regional level.

The number of single parent families affected by the removal of child benefit from households containing a higher-rate taxpayer in England is estimated to be around 50,000.

Public Sector: Borrowing

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of Government borrowing was on 15 September 2008. [34511]

Justine Greening: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) together with HM Treasury produces a monthly bulletin on the public sector finances. As such, only month end figures are available.

As at 30 September 2008, public sector net debt (PSND) stood at £566.0 billion (39.5% of GDP).

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many homes have attracted the zero rate of stamp duty in respect of zero carbon homes since October 2007; [41848]

(2) how much has been claimed in stamp duty relief in respect of zero carbon home purchases since October 2007; [41849]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of zero carbon homes currently under construction expected to qualify for stamp duty land tax relief. [41851]

Mr Gauke: For transactions completed between October 2007 and December 2010 claims for zero carbon homes relief from stamp duty land tax were made on 65 home sales, where the selling price was above £125,000. The relief claimed on these sales amounted to £182,000. The number of zero carbon homes currently under construction is not available.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a stamp duty rebate for homes participating in the Green Deal. [41850]

Mr Gauke: The Government are developing the Green Deal, which will enable households and businesses to invest in energy efficiency at no upfront cost and repay this through the expected savings on their energy bill. We currently intend that the Green Deal will operate independently of any tax incentives.

Stamp duty land tax policy, like that of all taxes, is kept under review through the normal Budget process.

Taxation: Financial Services

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax was paid on profits by banks in each of the last 10 years. [42244]

Mr Hoban: HM Revenue and Customs do not currently publish statistics of tax paid on profits by banks. Historical financial sector Corporation Tax receipts, which will include banks, is published in Table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

Taxation: Low Incomes

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reduce the level of taxation for people who earn no more than the national minimum wage. [41089]

Mr Gauke: At the June 2010 Budget, the Chancellor announced that the 2011-12 income tax personal allowance for those aged under 65 would be increased by £1,000 in cash terms, taking it from £6,475 now to £7,475 in 2011-12.

The June Budget estimated that the increase in the personal allowance will lift 880,000 of the lowest income taxpayers out of income tax altogether, and will be worth up to £170 a year for 23 million basic rate taxpayers. The Government's longer term goal is to raise the allowance to £10,000, with real terms steps in that direction every year.

An individual working full time on the current adult national minimum wage (which will apply until October 2011) of £5.93 per hour would have gross annual earnings of approximately £10,800.[1] Assuming this is their only source of income, the £1,000 cash increase in the personal allowance would decrease their income tax liability by 20% relative to the plans inherited from the previous administration. This is based on estimates from the June 2010 Budget.

The national minimum wage applicable after 1 October 2011 is subject to future uprating decisions.

[1] This assumes the individual is working 35 hours a week, and is paid for 52 weeks in the year at the same hourly wage rate.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of Exchequer receipts of exempting UK-registered companies from corporation tax on foreign branches in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012, *(c)* 2013 and *(d)* 2014. [41386]

Mr Gauke: The taxation of foreign branches measure, as set out in draft legislation in December, was estimated to have a steady state cost of £100 million a year by the end of the scorecard period 2014-15.

Specific figures and the five-year time-series will be made available at Budget 2011 when the policy is finalised.

VAT

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department assessed the merits of increasing the rate of value added tax to 22.5% prior to May 2010. [33272]

Mr Gauke: I am not aware of, or accountable for, any assessments made by my Department before May 2010 on the merits of increasing VAT to 22.5% since it is an established convention that a new Administration does not generally have access to any papers of a previous Administration of a different political complexion that would reveal former Ministers' opinions.

VAT: Clothing

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of children in respect of whom there is a liability to pay value added tax for the purchase of adult-sized clothing and shoes; and if he will bring forward proposals to exempt value added tax on all clothing and shoes for children. [41329]

Mr Gauke: No such estimates have been made. Children's clothing is zero-rated for VAT. Under longstanding agreements with our EU partners we can retain our existing VAT zero rates but we cannot apply any new ones or extend the scope of existing zero rates. There is no provision in our agreements with our EU partners that would permit the exemption of children's clothing.

VAT: Electronic Books

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the Government's policy on the rate of value added tax charged on electronic books; and if he will make a statement. [42068]

Mr Gauke: Under EU law, VAT on electronic books must be charged at the standard rate. Existing agreements with our EU partners do not allow the UK or other member states to extend the scope of their existing reliefs.

Welfare Tax Credits: Uprating

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings to the public purse his Department expects to make as a result of using the consumer prices index for the uprating of tax credits in *(a)* 2015-16 and *(b)* each of the subsequent five years. [35882]

Justine Greening: This measure was part of a package of changes announced at the June Budget 2010. The costing was updated at the spending review and is given in the following table:

	Saving to the Exchequer (£ million)
2011-12	305
2012-13	405
2013-14	950
2014-15	1,390
2015-16	1,990

The costing does not take account of the various other measures announced in the June Budget and spending review 2010 since it was first costed as part of the overall package.

Estimates beyond 2015-16 are unavailable.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 340W, *(a)* when and *(b)* where he has met members of the campaign team supporting a yes vote in the proposed referendum on the alternative vote not on Government premises but with an official or officials paid from the public purse in attendance; who participated in each meeting; and whether any departmental resources were used to facilitate each meeting. [42744]

The Deputy Prime Minister: There have been no meetings between myself and the Yes Campaign on non-Government premises with officials in attendance.

BBC

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what recent meetings *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Office have had with the director-general of the BBC; and whether pensions were discussed at those meetings; [25013]

(2) when he plans to answer question 25013, on the BBC and pensions, tabled on 15 November 2010. [42366]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 138W.

Members: Conduct

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to bring forward proposals for electors in a constituency to recall their elected Member of Parliament. [42675]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the level of funding to be provided by her Department to the agricultural sector for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan in each of the next four financial years. [41933]

Mr Paice: In England, the farming industry has made a commitment to lead the way to drive down agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. A framework for action was published in February 2010, and this outlines how reductions could be made through more resource-efficient practices, i.e. measures that involve simple changes at minimal or no extra cost to farmers. As well as enabling a reduction in emissions, these practices would also improve farmers' competitiveness.

The industry partnership is now working towards the publication of a Delivery Plan, which will set out how they intend to put the action plan into practice. DEFRA has advised and encouraged the partnership to produce a robust plan, and has supported its development by loaning a policy official to coordinate and facilitate its preparation.

As outlined in the business plan, DEFRA is committed to supporting and developing British farming, and this includes providing the necessary advice and knowledge to enable the sector to reduce on-farm emissions through measures that make good business sense. Additional financial support that DEFRA provides includes:

investing £12.6 million over a five-year period, in partnership with the devolved Administrations, to improve the agriculture Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which aims to strengthen our understanding of on-farm emissions, thus enabling better targeting of actions and fully capturing the positive actions that farmers are already taking;

commissioning a pilot project to develop and trial methods for delivering integrated environmental advice for farmers, which includes reducing GHG emissions.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she proposes to implement prohibitions on the use of wild animals in circuses. [41404]

Mr Paice: We are currently considering the 13,000 or so responses to our consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses before we publish a summary. In the meantime, Lord Henley has been meeting with representatives of welfare groups and the circus industry.

British Sugar

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of British Sugar. [38605]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* My officials have had regular contact with representatives of British Sugar, including in recent weeks, regarding the impact of the severe weather on beet supplies and processing.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of progress by the European Commission on publishing proposals for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [39389]

Mr Paice: I welcome the official start of negotiations on the future of the common agricultural policy (CAP) following the publication of the Commission's communication in November 2010. The UK has now considered and responded to these proposals; the response is available on DEFRA's website. Legislative proposals are due in summer of this year, and the UK will continue to work with the Commission to ensure ambitious reform of the CAP which will deliver good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment.

Dairy Farming: Contracts

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce a mandatory code of practice highlighting best and worst practice in raw milk contracts. [41815]

Mr Paice: There are currently no plans to introduce a mandatory code of practice in relation to raw milk contracts.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward legislative proposals to make mandatory the use of written contracts between farmers and dairy companies. [41816]

Mr Paice: Proposals on the use of written contracts between farmers and milk processors are currently progressing through the EU legislative process as part of the Commission's proposed dairy package. As drafted, these would allow member states to decide whether or not to make such contracts compulsory in their territory.

The Government's preference on contracts is for the least prescriptive approach, leaving the detail of contracts for contracting parties to agree. A decision on any domestic legislation relating to these proposals cannot be made until the legislation contained in the proposal is in its final form.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left her Department's employ since May 2010. [42302]

Richard Benyon: 724 staff (679.38 full-time equivalents) left DEFRA and its Executive agencies between 31 May 2010 and 31 January 2011.

The answer includes only those staff who were on the payroll of DEFRA or its Executive agencies. Unpaid staff, employment agency temporary workers and consultants are excluded.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff her Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42383]

Richard Benyon: On 31 January 2011 the number of staff employed by DEFRA and its Executive agencies was *(a)* 9,716 (headcount) and *(b)* 9,147.81 full-time equivalents.

The answer includes only those staff who were on the payroll of DEFRA or its Executive agencies. Unpaid staff, employment agency temporary workers and consultants are excluded.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by her Department in May 2010. [42399]

Richard Benyon: On 31 May 2010 the number of staff employed by DEFRA and its Executive agencies was *(a)* 10,266 (headcount) and *(b)* 9,686.39 full-time equivalents.

The answer includes only those staff who were on the payroll of DEFRA or its Executive agencies. Unpaid staff, employment agency temporary workers and consultants are excluded.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations her Department introduced between 30 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42075]

Mr Paice: The Department made the following 12 statutory instruments between 30 November 2010 and 8 February 2011:

1. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2011 (SI 2011/177).
2. The Animal Welfare (Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes) (Appointed Day) Order 2011 (SI 2011/150).
3. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2011 (SI 2011/95).
4. Uplands Transitional Payment Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1150).
5. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/3033).
6. Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/3034).
7. Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) (Amendment) Order 2010 (SI 2010/3028).
8. Plant Health (England) (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2962).
9. Agriculture (Cross compliance) (No 2) Regulations 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2941).
10. Licensable Means of Fishing Order 2010 (SI 2010/2910).
11. Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) Regulations 2010 (SI2010/2693).
12. Spring Traps Approval (Variation) (England) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2882).

Departmental Translation Services

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which services provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42892]

Richard Benyon: Interpreters are commissioned on an ad hoc basis by individual Core DEFRA business units out of delegated budgets. Information on interpretations is not held centrally and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost. Core does not hold this information for associated public bodies.

Fairtrade Initiative: Public Sector

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with the Secretary of State for International Development on the proposal to introduce a 50% minimum standard for fairly traded tea and coffee procured by central Government departments, prisons and the armed forces under Government Buying Standards. [41998]

Mr Paice: I have written to all Government Departments saying we will introduce Government Buying Standards for food and food services, with proposed criteria based around improving sustainability and ensuring value for money.

The Secretary of State for International Development and I agree that the Government Buying Standards should encourage the use of fairly traded tea and coffee, and current proposals are that at least 50% of tea and coffee supplied should be certified as such.

There is nothing to stop Departments from procuring more fairly traded goods than this minimum, however all Departments will want to ensure that increased costs to the taxpayer are minimised. We have asked for further evidence of equivalent costs to be submitted by the Fairtrade Foundation.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and *(b)* her Norwegian counterpart on catch quotas for fish. [42413]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I lead on discussions with our European counterparts on the discarding of fish and catch quotas.

The EU and Norway agreed their position on catch quotas at the annual bilateral meetings in December 2010. These meetings were attended by UK officials. The agreement was endorsed at the Fisheries Council in December where UK Ministers negotiated with the European Commission and member states to agree fishing opportunities for 2011. The importance of trialling the catch quota management system formed an important part of those negotiations.

There will be further discussions at the High Level Political Meeting on Discards on 1 March with member state Ministers and the Commission on the topic of minimising discards, which will include catch quotas and the reform of the common fisheries policy. The UK will continue to lead the way within the EU on finding practical solutions to the discard issue.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely level of grants for the fishing fleet in the next four years. [41754]

Richard Benyon: Based on current information, we estimate that the likely level of grants available to the UK fishing fleet over the next four years is around £38 million from the European Fisheries Fund. A further £19 million is available under the fund for aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing, and sustainable development of fisheries areas. In addition we are paying light dues of around £135,000 a year and up to £342,000 in funding e-logbooks for over 15 metre vessels.

Flood Control

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which flood defence schemes under the improvement programme for 2011 to 2015 are being reviewed with a view to cancellation. [41833]

Richard Benyon: No schemes are being reviewed with a view to cancellation. All schemes already under construction will be completed.

Flood Control: Cornwall

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what expenditure her Department has incurred on West Cornwall Flood risk assets health and safety improvements; and if she will make a statement; [41485]

(2) what the cost to the public purse is of the Furze Brook Ottery St Mary culvert and screen improvements; [41559]

(3) what the cost to the public purse is of the Drakewalls Stream screen improvements; [41560]

(4) what the cost to the public purse is of the Braunton flood defence improvements; [41561]

(5) what the planned cost to the public purse is of the Sladesbridge stone wall repairs; [41600]

(6) what the planned cost to the public purse is of the *(a)* South Devon *(b)* North Devon and *(c)* East Cornwall flood risk assets health and safety improvements; [41601]

(7) what the planned cost to the public purse is of the Cornwall main river trash screens installation of closed circuit television cameras; [41602]

(8) what the planned cost to the public purse is of the Truro tidal defence improvements; [41603]

(9) what the planned cost to the public purse is of the Polperro trash screen improvements; [41604]

(10) what the planned cost to the public purse is of the Stoke Canon River Culm flood alleviation scheme. [41605]

Richard Benyon: The following table for flood defence schemes within the South West Regional Flood Defence Committee programme indicates the total flood defence grant in aid required for each of the schemes listed.

DEFRA has national policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk management and provides funding through grant in aid to the Environment Agency, which also administers grant for capital projects to local authorities and internal drainage boards (collectively known as operating authorities).

£

Location	*Spend to date*	*Funding required from 2011-12 onwards*
Furze Brook Ottery St Mary Culvert and Screen	45,000	500,000
Braunton Flood defence improvements	0	700,000
Stoke Canon River Flood Alleviation Scheme	191,000	1,506,000
Truro Tidal Defence improvements	260,000	2,300,000
South Devon flood risk health and safety improvements	0	62,000
North Devon flood risk health and safety improvements	0	21,000
East Cornwall flood risk health and safety improvements	0	255,000
Cornwall main trash screens—installation of CCTV	88, 000	200,000
West Cornwall Flood risk assets health and safety improvements	0	155,000
Drakewells Stream Screen Improvements	0	30,000
Sladesbridge Stone Wall Repairs	0	40,000
Polperro trash screen improvements	0	40,000

Flood Control: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated to flood defence schemes in each year of the spending review period; and if she will make a statement. [41835]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is providing the Environment Agency with a capital budget of £258.8 million a year for the duration of the spending review period which will fund the majority of flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes. The Environment Agency also has a resource budget for spend on activities including maintenance of existing defences, flood forecasting, and incident response.

By the end of the period, DEFRA expects to spend at least £2.1 billion on flooding and coastal erosion risk management activity (including flood defence schemes, maintenance of existing defences, developing flood forecasting technologies and heightening public awareness of flood risk) and to improve protection for at least 145,000 homes.

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Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on border controls to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease into the UK from other countries where there are outbreaks; which countries are subject to such border controls at present; and if she will make a statement. [41501]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* Before a non-European Union (EU) country is approved to export to the EU, the exporting country must have acceptable disease status, the recognised standard for relevant control authorities and guarantees from the country with regard to compliance with EU import rules and results of EU missions to these countries.

All meat imported from non-EU countries must be accompanied by veterinary certification. Imports of products of animal origin (POAO) and live animals are checked at approved facilities at border inspection posts (BIPS).

All consignments of imported meat have a documentary check on the veterinary certification, and an identity check, to match the goods to the certification. A minimum of 20% of consignments of meat imported from non-EU countries undergoes a physical check by an official veterinary surgeon, and this rises to 50% for poultry and game. All consignments of live animals are physically checked. A random, non-discriminatory proportion (3%) of animals entering via a BIP are tested as part of compliance checks.

DEFRA's International Disease Monitoring (IDM) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is among those diseases of major concern. When DEFRA becomes aware of a new animal disease outbreak in another country, we carry out an initial rapid risk assessment of the risk of introduction of that disease into the United Kingdom (UK) and may produce a preliminary outbreak assessment. If this preliminary assessment concludes that a full qualitative risk assessment is not justified, then we will publish the preliminary outbreak assessment here:

www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/monitoring/index.htm

There is a continual low risk of introduction of FMD into the UK and the EU from any affected region, including Africa, the Middle East and Central/East Asia, primarily through illegal imports. We currently consider that generally there would be a negligible risk of the introduction of FMD from an affected country through legal imports because of the system of approval and certification laid down in EU law for countries approved for export to the EU.

Since November 2010 to today, South Korea has reported over 140 outbreaks of FMD strain O across the country in a re-emergence of disease. North Korea has similarly recently reported FMD. The disease is considered endemic in several other Asian, African, Middle Eastern and South American countries and there are a few countries which are officially FMD free either with or without vaccination. Closer to home, outbreaks are occurring regularly in North Africa (eg Egypt and Libya) and the Middle East (eg Iran and Iraq) and Turkey has reported over 1,400 outbreaks of FMD in the last 12 months. In January 2011, an incursion into Bulgaria just two kilometres from the Turkish border was reported to the European Commission. This incursion in wild boar and domestic animals has led to special protective measures being put in place by the EC for Bulgaria, in terms of biosecurity, transport and the movement of susceptible animals and POAO.

UK Border Agency (UKBA) is responsible for anti-smuggling checks at the Great Britain border on POAO. The Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland (DARDNI) is responsible for these controls in NI. Personal imports of meat and dairy products (which may carry diseases such as FMD) are banned from outside of the EU.

UKBA frontline staff are employed as multifunctional anti-smuggling staff with a responsibility to tackle a range of risks at the border, including dealing with illegal imports of POAO. Enforcement staff are deployed on a mobile and flexible basis and, at major ports and airports, are supported by the use of detector dogs specifically trained to detect POAO, as well as X-ray technology.

DEFRA and UKBA continue to work together to ensure that UKBA delivers an enforcement strategy that targets the entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease (including FMD) and responds flexibly to changing patterns in risk. DEFRA provides UKBA with a bespoke global risk map that categorises countries into Red, Amber and Green risks according to the prevalence of animal diseases that can be transmitted in products. UKBA uses this map to inform its risk-based targeting activities. Countries considered endemic for FMD and other diseases, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and African Swine Fever, are always on the list, but the list of countries is constantly being updated. UKBA also uses historical data on type of products seized, high-risk routings and origin, methods of concealment and risk trends; specific intelligence; results of operational checks; and information from other enforcement agencies.

UKBA also responds to specific disease notifications, such as serious disease outbreaks, for which it can increase controls if necessary. For example, following the recent outbreak of FMD in Bulgaria (part of the EU), we have worked with UKBA to reduce the risk of unregulated products entering the UK from the affected region. This is an exceptional measure as customs powers do not normally apply to intra-EU movements of POAO goods.

The re-emergence of FMD in Asia and the Middle East and the incursion into Bulgaria highlights in particular the importance of farmer awareness in observing good biosecurity and reporting disease promptly, as well as how problematic disease control is, once it has emerged. We will of course continue to monitor the situation and work closely with UKBA to reduce the risk of disease incursion.

Forestry Commission

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of forest land the Forestry Commission owns in *(a)* Oxfordshire and *(b)* Oxford West and Abingdon constituency; and where such land is located. [38387]

Mr Paice: The following table lists the location, name, size and ownership type of land managed by the Forestry Commission in Oxfordshire. The Forestry Commission does not manage any land in the Oxford West and Abingdon constituency.

Grid Reference	Wood Name	Ownership Type[1]	Area (hectares)
SU696835	Greyhone	Freehold	11
SU679821	Chartersfield Wood	Freehold	19
SU738798	Crowsley Park	Leasehold	76
SU674832	Ipsden	Freehold	38
SP603102	Menmarsh	Freehold	3
SU692832	Burnt Platt	Freehold	40
SU724921	Queen, College	Freehold	117
SU727956	Waterpenny	Freehold	137
SU728956	Cowleaze	Freehold	30
SU259961	Buscot	Leasehold	125
SU258948	Badbury	Leasehold	42

[1] The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates she has met Ministers in the Scottish Government to discuss the operation of the Forestry Commission since May 2010. [41433]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has regular correspondence with Scottish Ministers. She has not met them to discuss the operation of the Forestry Commission but I met Richard Lochhead MSP on 14 February 2011 to discuss matters including the Forestry Commission.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of Forestry Commission woodlands has been sold since 2010. [41267]

Mr Paice: Since the end of 2010, 937 hectares of land has been sold by the Forestry Commission in England. This represents less than 1% of the Forestry Commission public forest estate.

Public Forest Estate: Sales

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has to sell Forestry Commission land holdings of each type. [35474]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in England in *(a)* West Midlands and *(b)* nationally. [38855]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 9 February 2011]:* Since the beginning of October last year we have received over 5,000 representations on the sale of the public forest estate.

We are not able to break these representations down into those that specify the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in the West Midlands.

Forests: Endangered Species

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on protecting threatened or endangered species in forests in England owned by *(a)* the Forestry Commission and *(b)* private owners (i) in total and (ii) per 100,000 hectares of forest under each category of ownership in the last five years. [39048]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* Spend on specific endangered species is not recorded separately but forms part of the wider spend on biodiversity. While all sustainable forest management can benefit biodiversity, the Forestry Commission has spent the money shown in the following table specifically for the benefit of biodiversity on the public forest estate.

£

Financial year	Spend on public forest estate	Spend per 100,000 hectares of public forest estate
2005-06	3,673,847	1,423,972
2006-07	4,785,114	1,854,695
2007-08	3,871,339	1,500,519
2008-09	4,456,223	1,727,218
2009-10	4,787,026	1,855,436

We do not collect data on the money spent by private owners on biodiversity in their forests.

Public Forest Estate: Sales

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of Forestry Commission land have been put up for sale in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* England and *(e)* Yorkshire and the Humber since 6 May 2010; and how many hectares have attracted offers from or been sold to (i) private buyers, (ii) community or charitable bodies and (iii) other public bodies. [39049]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* Forestry is a devolved matter and sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in Scotland and Wales is a matter for the respective administrations. The Forestry Commission does not operate in Northern Ireland.

In England the Forestry Commission phases its asset sales programme over the year and the decision on the exact date that properties are placed on the market is made in conjunction with its selling agents. These dates were not recorded by the commission until July 2010. Since this time 2,037 hectares of land have been placed on the market, with 1,631 hectares being sold to private buyers and 114 hectares to public bodies. There have been no sales to community or charitable bodies in this period. In Yorkshire and the Humber 157 hectares have been placed on the market since July 2010 and 100 hectares have been sold to private buyers between 6 May 2010 and 10 February 2011.

The Forestry Commission does not record information on offers made to its agents prior to the final accepted offer. However, all of the remaining woodland from the 2010-11 sales programme is under various stages of completion. Of this, 170 hectares are "sale agreed" to community or charitable bodies and 969 hectares "sale agreed" to private buyers, including 194 hectares in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Public Forest Estate: Timber

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the standing volume of wood supplies entering the market from the public forest estate in England was in each year since 1997; and what estimate the Forestry Commission has made of the volume to be sent to market in each of the next 10 years. [39129]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* Timber production from the public forest estate in England by cubic metre overbark (i.e. the volume of wood including the bark) standing volume (as opposed to felled volume) from 1999 to 2000 is listed in the following table. The figures for earlier financial years are not available.

Estimated volume for future years from the Forestry Commission's 2005 production forecast is 1,430,000 cubic metre overbark standing for each year from 2011-12 to 20015-16 and 1,403,000 cubic metre overbark standing each year from 2017-18 to 2020-21.

	Volume[1] (m^3obs)
1999-2000	1,650,000
2000-01	1,468,000
2001-02	1,435,000
2002-03	1,472,000
2003-04	1,538,000
2004-05	1,536,000
2005-06	1,510,000
2006-07	1,489,000
2007-08	1,491,000
2008-09	1,392,000
2009-10	1,560,000

[1] Volume rounded to the nearest thousand (1,000). Volume measured in cubic metre overbark standing (m^3obs).

Public Forest Estate: Sales

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the sale of woodland leased to the Forestry Commission. [39384]

Mr Paice: Leasehold land managed by the Forestry Commission would be considered for disposal on a case by case basis in line with the selection criteria for the 2011-12 asset sales programme. All sales are currently on hold until after the independent panel, which will be appointed to examine forestry policy in England, has reported in the autumn.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her proposed guarantee of continued certification of any woodland transferred from the public forest estate will be subject to the *(a)* Forest Stewardship Council and *(b)* programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme. [39385]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been ended and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Public Forest Estate: Access

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of established conifer plantations owned and managed by the Forestry Commission provide access opportunities for *(a)* walkers, *(b)* cyclists, *(c)* equestrians and *(d)* others. [40900]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* The Forestry Commission does not record the provision of recreation facilities by tree species and age. Approximately, 160,000 hectares of the public forest estate benefit from access rights on foot through dedication under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. A further 26,000 hectares of access land in the New Forest predate the Act. The Forestry Commission estimates that over 163,000 hectares of the public forest estate have open, permit-free, access for horse riders. Cyclists are welcome on most of the areas where there is foot access and access for horse riders.

Public Forest Estate: Sales

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of woodland or forest in *(a)* England, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* Stafford constituency were sold by (i) the Forestry Commission and (ii) other public bodies in each of the last 13 years. [41062]

Mr Paice: I have placed documents in the House Library detailing the area of land sold by the Forestry Commission since 1997 by calendar year from 1997 to 2002 and by date of sale from 2003 to 2010.

DEFRA does not hold data on woodland or forest that was sold by other public bodies and we do not record sales by constituency.

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition of ancient is used in her Department's consultation paper on forestry. [41838]

Mr Paice: The definition of ancient woodland used was "woodland which has been in continuous existence since 1600AD". This is the standard classification used for the National Inventory of Ancient Woodlands maintained by Natural England.

The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to put in place arrangements to protect access rights to community woodland which is leased to the Forestry Commission under her proposals for the sale of the public forest estate. [41555]

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision has been made in the consultation on the future of land operated by the Forestry Commission for respondents to state that they wish there to be no change in the current arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [42229]

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what protection is in place for the preservation of ancient woodland in her proposals for the disposal of the public forest estate; [41935]

(2) which areas of woodland in Sherwood constituency are affected by her Department's consultation paper on forestry. [41991]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Public Forest Estate: Christchurch

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many access permits have been granted in respect of *(a)* ponies and traps and *(b)* horses by the Forestry Commission for access to (i) Hurn Forest, (ii) Sopley and Avon Common and (iii) Ramsdown Plantation since January 2010. [42197]

Mr Paice: Permits issued by the Forestry Commission in Dorset are not limited to individual woodlands, but are for all the freehold public forest estate in the county. Since January 2010 the Forestry Commission has issued 23 access permits for ponies and traps and 125 permits for horse riding.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 706W, on land: Christchurch, how the book value of woodland on the public forest estate in Christchurch constituency is calculated. [42336]

Mr Paice: Book values for the woodland on the public forest estate are assessed by external valuers who carry out a sample valuation of a range of woodlands within each of the Forestry Commission's forest districts. This is then used to give a single value per hectare valuation for the district. This hectare value is then applied to all woodland within that forest district.

Public Forest Estate: Access

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on ensuring that approved cycling clubs and organisers retain present levels of access to land managed by the Forestry Commission in the event of any sale of such land; and if she will make a statement. [40183]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Public Forest Estate: North Yorkshire

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to designate *(a)* Dalby, *(b)* Cropton Forest and *(c)* Kielder Forest as protected Heritage Forests. [42373]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Public Forest Estate: Nottinghamshire

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what ancient woodland in Sherwood constituency is owned by the Forestry Commission. [41934]

Mr Paice: The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967.

There are two areas of ancient woodland, including restored plantation on ancient woodland sites, on the Forestry Commission public forest estate in Sherwood constituency. Cutts Wood is a 46 hectare block that is entirely ancient woodland. In addition, Birklands straddles the constituency boundary with 270 hectares of ancient woodland in the Sherwood constituency.

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that the Forestry Commission publishes its recent reports on specific woodlands in Sherwood constituency. [41993]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission holds many reports on a wide range of issues relating to the management of its woodland and collects detailed information on all its woods as part of the Forest Design Plan preparation process. These plans set out how the woods should develop over the next 30 years and include felling and regeneration plans. The Forest Design Plans for the woods the Forestry Commission manages in the Sherwood constituency, the background information, and most other reports, are available for inspection at the local Forestry Commission office at Edwinstowe.

Public Forest Estate: Timber

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the *(a)* volume of timber (i) of each species and (ii) from each forest in the public forest estate in the UK placed on the market in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* average price achieved in each case. [41228]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 15 February 2011]:* Forestry is a devolved matter and detailed records of timber production in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are not held by DEFRA.

Figures for the volume of hard and softwood timber sales and the average price these achieved were provided in the answer I gave on 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 704-05W. The Forestry Commission also compiles statistical information covering various aspects of forestry. This is published annually as Forestry Statistics and I will place a copy of Forestry Statistics 2010 in the Library of the House.

Public Forest Estate: Disease

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the levels of disease among the tree population of the implementation of her proposals for the disposal of Forestry Commission land. [39545]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the information supplied to her under EC Regulation 1946/2003 by Oxitec prior to its transboundary shipment of genetically-modified mosquito eggs to *(a)* the Cayman Islands, *(b)* Malaysia, *(c)* India, *(d)* Brazil, *(e)* Singapore, *(f)* Thailand, *(g)* USA and *(h)* Vietnam. [36645]

Mr Paice: Exports of genetically modified organisms are only required to be notified to the UK Competent Authority under Regulation 1946/2003 if they are to be exported to a non-EU country for release into the environment. Exports of GMOs are not covered by this requirement if they are intended for contained use as was the case in respect of the shipment of mosquito eggs by Oxitec to Malaysia, India, Brazil, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. Information on the export of GM mosquito eggs to the Cayman Islands for release to the environment has already been placed in the Libraries of the House in response to a Lords parliamentary question from the Countess of Mar on 13 January 2011, Volume No. 723, Part No. 93.

Gun Sports

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the required conditions are for a cold weather ban on shooting; and what consultation takes place with representatives of shooting organisations in the event of such a ban. [41716]

Mr Paice: Under section 2(6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) the Secretary of State can introduce an order in England initiating a period (outside of the close season) of special protection for any birds included in part II of schedule 1, or part 1 of schedule 2 of the Act. A prolonged period of severe winter weather may require such a period of special protection.

The Meteorological Office records daily temperatures at a network of 22 meteorological stations throughout England, Scotland and Wales. On the 13th day of frozen conditions, if more than half of these meteorological stations are still reporting freezing conditions, a case is presented to the relevant Secretary of State requesting a suspension of waterfowl shooting due to the severe weather. Once the Statutory Instrument has been signed, it comes into force two days after the case was presented. Similar arrangements exist in Northern Ireland.

Under section 2(7) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) before making an order under subsection (6) the Secretary of State must consult a representative of persons interested in the shooting of wildfowl proposed to be protected by the order. Under these arrangements in England, Scotland and Wales the British Association of Scooting and Conservation (BASC) is considered to be the organisation that is able to represent persons interested in the shooting of birds that would be protected by any order. In Northern Ireland BASC, the Countryside Alliance—Ireland and the Scottish Association for Country Sports are all consulted, as representatives of the shooting and hunting community in Northern Ireland.

Hill Farming

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps she has taken to support hill farmers. [41671]

Mr Paice: The Government set out their intention to develop affordable measures of support for hill farmers in DEFRA's Structural Reform Plan. We will be announcing our proposals on this shortly as part of the conclusions of a review of policy on the English uplands.

Industrial Health and Safety: South West England

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse is of the Lower Axe area health and safety improvements to structures. [41534]

Richard Benyon: The Lower Axe area 'Health and Safety Improvements to Structures' project is being promoted by the Lower Axe Internal Drainage Board. The total scheme cost is £285,000. The Internal Drainage Board has applied to the Environment Agency for flood defence grant in aid funding at a 45% grant rate (for £130,000).

Irish Sea: Pollution

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on co-operation with the Irish government on monitoring pollution in the Irish Sea. [40952]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

In November 2010, Ireland formally joined the BONN agreement, a joint agreement for co-operation in dealing with and monitoring oil pollution in the North sea and the Irish sea.

UK and Ireland have agreed to formulate the UKIRE plan which will provide communication and response co-operation plans between our two countries. The UKIRE plan has a target for completion of May 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many pollution incidents involving discharges above 0.01 tonnes there have been in the Irish Sea since 28 July 2010; and what the *(a)* date, *(b)* size, *(c)* name of the company reporting the incident and *(d)* name of the company responsible for the incident was in each case; [40996]

(2) on what date each oil pollution incident in the Irish Sea occurred in each of the last 10 years; what quantity of oil was spilled in each case; and which company was responsible; [41223]

(3) what oil pollution incidents involving more than 0.01 tonnes of spillage there have been in the Irish Sea since 2007; on what dates each occurred; what the size of the spillage was; and which company *(a)* reported and *(b)* was responsible for each; [41224]

(4) how many oil pollution incidents there have been in the Irish Sea since March 2010; and what the *(a)* date, *(b)* size, *(c)* name of the company reporting the incident and *(d)* name of the company responsible for the incident was in each case. [40948]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

Statistical details on oil spills are gathered and collated by the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS). ACOPS is an environmental non-government organisation which surveys reported discharges that can be attributed to vessels and offshore oil and gas installations operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone (UKPCZ).

ACOPS produces annual reports although the work of gathering, collating and analysing the material takes about 15 months. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) anticipates that the report for 2009 will be published next month. This report will be available on the MCA's website, together with the reports for earlier years.

The MCA generally only holds data on the source of the spill and does not routinely gather data about the company responsible for the oil spill.

Data requested for 2010, can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* location and *(b)* size is of each type of armament dump identified in the Irish Sea. [41217]

Peter Luff: I have been asked to reply.

MOD information on sea dumped munitions in the British Isles, including the Irish Sea, has been placed in the public domain; it can be accessed at the following internet address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/HealthandSafetyPublications/SSDCD/SustainableDevelopmentPolicy/DisposalofMunitionsAtSea.htm

A copy of a list of publications available at the website address given has been placed in the Library of the House. The records show an historic munitions dump in the Irish Sea located in a region known as Beauforts Dyke as defined by Notice to Mariners No 4095 issued in 1945. Dumping of munitions ceased in 1973 when agreements were reached in the London and Oslo Conventions, with the exception of a small emergency dump in 1976.

Just to the south of the Irish Sea; three small dump sites are also listed as being located off the south west Welsh coast near Milford Haven.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many radioactive pollution incidents of each type in the Irish Sea have been recorded in each of the last 30 years. [41218]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

No radioactive pollution incidents of each type in the Irish sea have been recorded in any of the last 30 years.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the quantity of *(a)* synthetic chemicals, *(b)* mercury, *(c)* cadmium, *(d)* lead, *(e)* zinc, *(f)* nickel and *(g)* arsenic released into the Irish Sea from establishments in the UK in each year since 2007; and what targets have been established for reducing the quantity of each released. [41219]

Richard Benyon: The estimated riverine and direct loads of cadmium, mercury, lead, zinc, lindane and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) released into the Irish sea from 2007-09 (based on an average of the upper and lower values reported) are provided in the following table. The figures include natural sources of the metals and anthropogenic releases from point and diffuse sources. Loads can vary considerably depending on the amount of rainfall in a particular area over the year.

Consolidated information on UK loads of cadmium, mercury, lead, zinc, lindane and PCBs entering the marine environment from rivers and direct sources (sewage works and industrial discharges) in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland is available centrally and reported to the OSPAR convention for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic. We do not hold such information on loads of nickel and arsenic.

	Tonne				*kg*	
	Cadmium	*Mercury*	*Lead*	*Zinc*	*Lindane (g-HCH)*	*Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)*
2007	2.13	0.36	73.34	441.03	22.47	33.07
2008	2.18	0.40	53.41	375.23	28.55	35.97

	Tonne				kg	
	Cadmium	*Mercury*	*Lead*	*Zinc*	*Lindane (g-HCH)*	*Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)*
2009	4.06	0.48	111.50	491.81	24.57	31.77

Lead is designated as a priority substance under the water framework directive, and mercury, cadmium and lindane have been designated as priority hazardous substances (PHS). These substances are all subject to progressive reduction obligations under the directive. PHSs are subject to additional objectives with regard to stopping or phasing out discharges, emissions and losses.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 847-8W, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of each category 1 and 2 pollution incident which had an effect on water in a catchment which flowed into the Irish Sea in 2010. [42690]

Richard Benyon: A copy of the data, provided by the Environment Agency, containing *(a)* date and *(b)* location of each category 1 and 2 pollution incidents which had an effect on water in a catchment which flowed into the Irish sea in 2010, has been placed in the Library.

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish her Department's response to the report of the Advisory Group on Responsibility and Cost Sharing on livestock welfare. [41932]

Mr Paice: Ministers are considering the advisory group's recommendations carefully. An announcement will be made by April 2011 as set out in the Government's Structural Reform Plan.

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what basis her Department consulted the Duchy of Cornwall on the proposals for the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; and whether any amendments were made to legislative proposals in consequence. [41612]

Richard Benyon: If a Bill's provisions affect the interests (hereditary revenues, personal property or other interests) of the Duchy of Cornwall, it is sometimes necessary to liaise with representatives of the Prince of Wales in order to obtain "Prince's Consent", as part of the parliamentary process.

Since the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 affect the interests of the Crown and the Duchy of Cornwall it was necessary to obtain both Queen's and Prince's Consent before the Bill was passed, and it was on this basis that the Department consulted representatives of the Duchy of Cornwall.

No amendments were made to the Bill as a consequence of this process.

Meat: Food Labelling

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the proposals from the European Parliament for meat from animals slaughtered without stunning to be labelled as such; and if she will make a statement. [41636]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* The European Parliament proposal that meat from animals slaughtered without stunning should be labelled was made during the Parliament's First Reading consideration of the Commission proposal for a Food Information Regulation. In December, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met to reach a political agreement on the Food Information Regulations but member states did not discuss the European Parliament's proposed amendment on method of slaughter labelling. As a result this proposal is not included in the common position that will be submitted to the European Parliament shortly.

The European Parliament will undertake its Second Reading on the Food Information Regulation in the coming months in its Environment Committee and then in Plenary. If the amendment on welfare labelling is retained by the European Parliament in its Second Reading, the proposal will then go to Council for consideration.

We believe people should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out, and I have had discussions with the supermarkets and the food and catering industries about the role labelling and point of sale information can play in giving consumers a greater choice. All agree this is a difficult, complex and sensitive issue that cannot easily be resolved in view of the many competing interests involved. We will be looking at this further but will need to consider the impact of existing EU meat labelling Regulations, before any final decisions are taken.

Milk: EU Action

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the proposals of the EU Commission to enhance the collective bargaining power of dairy farmers in contractual arrangements made with purchasers of their milk. [41931]

Mr Paice: The Government agree that some rebalancing of negotiating power in the dairy sector could be welcome. Under the Commission proposals, milk producers could collaborate and set up producer organisations. This would be a good opportunity to enhance their bargaining power.

As for the scale of negotiations between milk producers and processors, we would prefer to see measures based on providing greater clarity of existing competition law and what producers may do collectively, based on the concept of a relevant market, rather than the Commission's approach of exemption from competition law and limits based upon national milk production. This would improve producers' bargaining power within the existing law.

With regard to written contracts, the Government agree with the Commission that member states should be free to decide whether to make them compulsory.

Mining: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to compensate communities for the environmental impact of aggregate extraction. [42424]

Richard Benyon: The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) provided funding for local communities affected by aggregates extraction from 2002 until the end of March this year, when it will be discontinued. The decision was taken as part of the spending review settlement in October 2010, where we looked very carefully across all DEFRA's priorities to identify where we can make best use of the available funds.

In 2011-12, we will fund a modest, short term project to help ensure that the findings from the £60 million already invested in ALSF Research and Development are accessible to those who can put them into practice, and to achieve the potential improvements in environmental performance. This will bring together material from numerous research reports and websites into a professional website tool run and maintained by the Minerals Industry Research Organisation.

Moorland Association

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she last met representatives of the Moorland Association. [41878]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State has not met with the Moorland Association, but the Minister with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) met with their representatives on 2 November 2010.

New Forest

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on permitting the Forestry Commission to introduce car parking charges in the New Forest; and if she will make a statement. [39140]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]*: The introduction of car parking charges on the public forestry estate is an operational matter for the Forestry Commissioners.

Rivers: Water Supply

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency is taking to tackle over-abstraction from the river *(a)* Dart, *(b)* Teign, *(c)* Yealme, *(d)* Erme and *(e)* other south Devon rivers; and if she will make a statement. [41430]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency assesses the sustainability of water resources in England, including the Dart, Teign, Yealme, Erme and other south Devon rivers, to inform its future management of abstractions. Where over-abstraction has occurred, the Agency can take action through its Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme.

The Environment Agency also carries out compliance visits, which are targeted at rivers where there is stress from potential over-abstraction, and analyses abstraction volumes to ensure levels remain within the limits agreed in a licence. Licence holders found to be in breach of their conditions can ultimately face legal action.

Rural Areas: Business

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rural businesses her Department has assisted in Maidstone and the Weald constituency in each of the last five years; and how much has been spent on each business. [42590]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the assistance which has been provided to rural businesses in the Maidstone and Weald constituency under DEFRA's rural development programmes over the last five years:

	Scheme	*Number of businesses assisted*	*Individual grant awards[1] (£)*
2006	ERDP[2]	3	909.75 3,083.25 175,195.20
2007	ERDP	0	n/a
2008	RDPE[3]	2	89,218.00 110,000.00
2009	RDPE	2	474,051.60 1,475.00
2010	RDPE	2	749,987.00 587.50

[1] This is based on the total grant awarded to the project. In some cases it may be that the applicant has not yet claimed the full amount.
[2] England Rural Development Programme 2000-06.
[3] Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sources of *(a)* Government and *(b)* EU funding are available to (i) farmers, (ii) rural villages, (iii) rural businesses, (iv) local authorities, (v) parish councils and (vi) rural voluntary organisations to assist in the regeneration of rural economies. [42591]

Richard Benyon: Funding is available under DEFRA's Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry; improve the environment and the countryside; improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of economic activity. Applicants for RDPE funding can include farmers, rural businesses, rural community groups and voluntary organisations, all of which have already benefited from this funding. Farmers also benefit from funding under the single farm payment.

Rural enterprise is also able to benefit from the advice and support provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills programmes, and considerable work has been done to ensure that the Regional Growth Fund will be accessible to rural (as well as urban) areas which are currently dependent on the public sector. This will help them make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity. Rural communities and rural voluntary groups can access relevant funding from both national and local government sources open to civil society bodies. In addition, DEFRA and the Department for Communities and Local Government are currently supporting the town and parish council sector through funding to support community empowerment. Local authorities have, of course, recently been notified of their formula grant allocations for the coming financial year, and this funding is intended to enable them to meet the needs of all their residents, rural and urban.

While the Government recognise that some of their funding can be beneficial for businesses and communities, they believe that the most serious barriers hindering economic development in both rural and urban areas are the top-down restrictions affecting planning, growth and local action. The Government are seeking to remove these barriers, for example through the provisions of the Localism Bill, in order to enable local authorities and empower communities to address their own locally-identified needs. The creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships will help with the drive to sustainable local growth, focusing on local economic priorities.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has undertaken any research on the effects of tributyl tin from the hulls of ships on the marine environment in the Irish Sea since 2003. [42127]

Richard Benyon: The Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), together with colleagues in the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland, and the Fisheries Research Services in Scotland, have carried out studies on the effects of tributyl tin (TBT) on dogwhelks in the seas around the UK, including the Irish sea. The results, based on surveys in 2004 and 2007, show that effects on reproduction (imposex) have continued to reduce compared with the results of earlier surveys. A further survey was started in 2010, but the results are not yet available.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library the latest dataset from the central database on marine pollution held by the Environment Agency. [42128]

Richard Benyon: A copy of the latest dataset from the Environment Agency's central database on marine pollution has been placed in the Library.

Special Areas of Conservation

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the European Commission since June 2010 on the evidence and advice contained within the submission of candidate Special Areas of Conservation to the Commission. [42171]

Richard Benyon: A package of candidate Special Areas of Conservation was put forward to the European Commission on 20 August 2010. This package of sites was identified to ensure that, together with further sites to be submitted before the end of 2012, the United Kingdom meets its obligations under article 4 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). The European Commission has acknowledged the receipt of these sites but has not had discussions on them with DEFRA. The European Commission evaluates the proposals with assistance from the European Topic Centre and, if satisfied that they are acceptable, they will add the sites to the Community list of possible Sites of Community Importance to be adopted in accordance with article 4(2) of the Habitats Directive.

Squirrels

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is considering placing obligations on future owners, leaseholders or managers of woodland owned by the Forestry Commission to control the size of the grey squirrel population as part of its proposals for the sale of woodland. [39905]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Steart Coastal Management Project

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse is of the Steart coastal management project. [41533]

Richard Benyon: The total indicative scheme costs for the Steart Peninsula flood management projects are estimated to be between £17 million and £20 million. Land acquisition accounts for £5 million to £7 million of this amount. Options for efficiencies will be considered as the proposal develops.

Sugar Beet

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the effects of recent weather conditions on the viability of the sugar beet industry. [38607]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* The severe weather this winter has had an impact on the sugar beet campaign and we are expecting UK sugar production to be around 50,000 tonnes less than was forecast. This is due not just to the freezing conditions of December, but also to the rapid thaw which occurred in January. These conditions were extreme and should not impact on the long-term viability of the sugar beet industry in the UK, the prospects for which I believe remain strong.

I am aware that British Sugar and the NFU are working to ensure that losses to the industry are minimised and that they have agreed to examine together the lessons learned from the experiences of the current campaign.

Supermarkets: Competition

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set to establish a groceries code adjudicator to monitor and enforce the groceries supply code of practice. [40834]

Mr Paice: The establishment of a groceries code adjudicator (GCA) will require primary legislation. The draft Bill to establish the GCA will be brought forward in the near future. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading on the Bill, with close co-operation from DEFRA.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account she has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42607]

Richard Benyon: The refreshed Compact frames DEFRA's approach to working with civil society in general. In respect of policy development specifically the Compact stresses transparency, and working with civil society at the earliest possible stages. DEFRA officials are actively engaging with civil society in policy development and my Department is applying this approach across all key policy areas.

Senior managers in DEFRA have received written briefing on the Compact and the importance of reflecting the letter and the spirit in their work. We are also embedding the Compact in DEFRA's 'policy cycle' training guidance—the policy cycle is the framework used to guide policy development in DEFRA.

Uplands: Game

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of management of upland areas for game and *(b)* its contribution to local economies. [41870]

Mr Paice: Game management can be important for the management of land through the provision of cover for wildlife, and through the creation and management of habitats such as woodland, grouse moors, beetle banks and hedgerows. 96% of grouse moor sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) are now in favourable or recovering condition, an increase from 51% in 2006. This is a reflection of moorland managers' awareness of the importance and sensitivity of upland biodiversity.

Game management can also be important for the rural economy. While no specific assessment has been made of the contribution of game management to upland areas, shooting contributes in the region of £1.6 billion to the rural economy, and supports the equivalent of around 70,000 full-time jobs; much of this contribution will be in upland areas.

Water Meters

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she has assessed the effects on each income decile of the population of the introduction of compulsory water metering; [38523]

(2) what her policy is on the introduction of compulsory water metering in England. [39278]

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage the use of water meters. [41790]

Richard Benyon: The Government will set out their policy on metering in the Water White Paper which is due to be published this summer taking into account household affordability of bills.

Wild Ducks: Pest Control

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences to cull ruddy ducks were issued in each of the last three years; and what estimate she has made of the number of ducks that were culled. [41713]

Richard Benyon: The programme to control ruddy ducks in the UK is delivered by a dedicated team from the Food and Environment Research Agency. In England, a licence for the culling of ruddy ducks was issued to the team by the licensing authority (Natural England) for each of the last three years (2008 to 2010) and a similar annual licence was issued by the Scottish Executive for the culling of birds in Scotland.

A licence for culling ruddy ducks in Wales was issued in 2008 and 2009 by the Welsh Assembly Government acting as the licensing authority in Wales. The 2009 license in Wales expired in autumn 2010 and has been replaced by a General Licence under which any future culling in Wales will take place. No ruddy duck shooting, as part of the DEFRA eradication programme, has taken place in Northern Ireland.

The total number of ruddy ducks confirmed shot in England, Scotland and Wales for each of the past three years is as follows:

	Ruddy ducks
2008	1,365
2009	717
2010	386

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the ruddy duck cull. [41714]

Richard Benyon: The programme to control ruddy ducks in the UK has been delivered by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) as part of an EU LIFE funded project. During the course of the programme, the project manager has made regular reports that provide information regarding the effectiveness of the eradication programme and which are available on the FERA website.

The reporting so far received indicates the ruddy duck population in the UK has been reduced from approximately 4,400 at the beginning of the programme in September 2005, to the most recent estimate of less than 120 birds. DEFRA considers therefore that the programme to date has been very effective.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to continue the ruddy duck cull until the population is eradicated. [41715]

Richard Benyon: The eradication programme in the UK is currently being delivered by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) as part of an EU LIFE co-funded project. This project comes to an end in March 2011 but DEFRA remains committed to continuing the eradication programme through to completion. The Department is currently finalising options for how the eradication work will be delivered following the close of the EU LIFE funded project.

DEFENCE

3M Health Care

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has awarded to 3M Health Care and its subsidiaries since 2007; and if he will make a statement. [43009]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence contracts database records no central award of contracts to 3M Health Care since 2007-08, although we have made a few purchases from the company under our low-value purchasing arrangements.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on decompression of employees who had served in Afghanistan in each year since 2002. [35522]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* This information is not held in the format requested. However, the costs incurred by British Forces Cyprus for personnel using Bloodhound Camp for decompression since 2005, when personnel first decompressed there when returning from Operation Telic in Iraq, are as follows:

	Cost of decompression (£ million)
2005-06	0.858
2006-07	1.505
2007-08	1.864
2008-09	2.080
2009-10	2.409
2010-11	[1]2.413

[1] Actual to date

The figures include the costs of infrastructure, IT, utilities, fuel and equipment support.

Personnel who have been serving in both Afghanistan and Iraq have used Bloodhound Camp for decompression during this period, with the exception of financial year 2010-11. No personnel from Iraq decompressed in this period.

Costs associated with the airbridge and troops' salaries have not been included as these are not directly attributable to decompression.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel *(a)* in total and *(b)* who have served in Afghanistan have been through decompression in each year since 2002. [35524]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The figures requested are available for Cyprus from 2005 when personnel first undertook decompression there when returning from Operation Telic in Iraq.

	Herrick	*Telic*	*Total*
2005	0	564	564
2006	1,288	0	1,288
2007	7,679	8,526	16,205
2008	11,700	8,100	19,800
2009	16,500	4,020	20,520
2010	21,211	0	21,211
Total	58,378	21,210	79,588

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which RAF bases are designated as emergency landing sites for the US Space Shuttle; [41399]

(2) what agreement he has reached with the US Administration on emergency landings of the Space Shuttle; and what payment the US Administration is liable for under the agreement. [41462]

Nick Harvey: RAF Fairford is the only RAF base designated as an emergency landing site, also known as a launch abort site, for the US Space Shuttle.

RAF Fairford is made available to the United States Visiting Forces. There is no separate agreement relating to its designation as a launch abort site for the US Space Shuttle and no separate arrangements exist for payment in this respect.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 455W, on military bases, if he will list the occasions on which hon. Members have received briefings from the civilian and service personnel responsible for his Department's review of RAF bases. [41785]

Nick Harvey: My right hon. and learned Friend visited the Ministry of Defence on 18 January 2011, to discuss the future of RAF Leuchars. I am not aware of any other briefings to individual hon. Members from the civilian or service personnel on the departmental review. Local matters I know have been the subject of discussion between the bases concerned and their constituency hon. Members, which is part of the normal relationship Heads of Establishment are encouraged to maintain with their local elected representatives. Ministers have also addressed the review on numerous occasions in the House, in correspondence, and through responses to written questions, and remain available to discuss these important matters with hon. Members should they wish to.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 25W, on Air Force: military bases, at which RAF bases work classified as redevelopment was scheduled in his Department's annual planning round in 2010. [42882]

Mr Robathan: The RAF bases at which work classified as redevelopment was scheduled in the Ministry of Defence's annual planning round in 2010 are:

RAF Benson;
RAF Boulmer;
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow;
RAF Brize Norton;
RAF Conningsby;
RAF Cottesmore;
RAF Cosford;
RAF Cranwell;
RAF Fylingdales;
RAF Halton;
RAF High Wycombe;
RAF Honington;
RAF Kinloss;
RAF Leeming;
RAF Leuchars;
RAF Linton on Ouse;
RAF Lossiemouth;
RAF Lyneham;
RAF Marham;
RAF Northolt;
RAF Odiham;
RAF Shawbury;
RAF Spadeadam;
RAF St Mawgan;
RAF Valley;
RAF Waddington; and
RAF Wittering.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 382W, on the Air Force: military bases, to whom the annual land cost is payable in each case it is incurred. [42886]

Mr Robathan: With the exception of the payment of £175,000 at RAF Lossiemouth for a ground lease for a combined medical centre to Primary Health Investment Properties, and payments at RAF Kinloss and RAF Leuchars to the Crown Estate, all other payments are to private landowners or businesses.

Air Force: Redundancies

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria were used to select the Royal Air Force trainee pilots to be made redundant. [42900]

Dr Fox: No decisions have been taken regarding redundancy for RAF trainee pilots. A decision has been taken to remove up to 170 RAF student pilots from the flying training pipeline. The criteria being used to select those trainee pilots to be removed from flying training will be a combination of the service need, officer qualities, ground based pilot aptitude testing, and flying performance to date.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-22W, on armed forces: redundancies, what proportion of the trainee Royal Air Force pilots to be made redundant have completed *(a)* 0 to 10%, *(b)* 10 to 20%, *(c)* 20 to 30%, *(d)* 30 to 40%, *(e)* 40 to 50%, *(f)* 50 to 60%, *(g)* 60 to 70%, *(h)* 70 to 80%, *(i)* 80 to 90% and *(j)* more than 90% of the flying hours required to complete their training. [42901]

Dr Fox: The selection process for re-streaming trainee pilots is not due to finish until mid-March. However, it is evident that the information that would be required to answer this question is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people living in *(a)* Glasgow South West constituency, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK are in receipt of a (i) war pension and (ii) payment from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [41472]

Mr Robathan: The War Pension Scheme (WPS) provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for illness, injury or death as a result of service from the start of the first world war in 1914 up until 5 April 2005.

As at 30 September 2010, 320 individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Glasgow South West, 16,960 individuals in Scotland and 162,575 individuals in the UK were receiving a pension under the WPS.

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was introduced on 6 April 2005 to provide compensation to service personnel and their dependants for illness, injury or death as a result of service from this date.

As at 30 September 2010, no individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Glasgow South West, 50 individuals in Scotland and 485 individuals in the UK were receiving either Guaranteed Income Payments (GIP) or Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payments (SGIP) under the AFCS.

As at 30 September 2010, less than five individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Glasgow South West, 440 individuals in Scotland and 6,980 individuals in the UK had received a lump sum payment to compensate for injury under the AFCS.

Notes:

1. Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP)—regular payment to a service person that provides a continuous income stream.

2. Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP)—regular payment to surviving dependant(s) that provides continuous financial support.

3. In accordance with DASA's rounding policy, all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest five and figures fewer than five have been suppressed.

Blue Force

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence Police on Blue Force Property and Blue Force Services. [41814]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence Police are aware that the Blue Force property management company, based in Colchester, Essex, has ceased trading. They are considering whether a formal investigation is warranted. Ministers have not been involved.

Bomber Command: War Memorials

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of the lapse of the value added tax exemption for memorials on the proposed bomber command memorial; and if he will make a statement. [42045]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

There are no VAT zero-rate or exemption reliefs for the construction of memorials, but the Memorials Grant Scheme exists to make grants equivalent to the VAT incurred by registered charities on eligible works to establish or maintain memorials. The scheme was slightly narrowed in scope from 4 January 2011, to exclude the value of VAT on professional fees, but was otherwise preserved and has not lapsed as the question implies. Accordingly, no representations about lapse have been made to HM Treasury.

Bowman Combat Radio System

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the Bowman programme; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that programme. [41784]

Peter Luff: Bowman has proved its worth on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is significantly more capable than predecessor systems, providing secure communications, increasingly capable situational awareness and battle management capability. Reports from theatre and from pre- and post-operational visits to units indicate that Bowman equipment has been well received and is highly effective.

The Ministry of Defence continues to upgrade the Bowman capability to reflect the advance of technology and the evolving needs of our people on operations. The current capability upgrade and obsolescence update will be used on operations in Afghanistan from spring 2011 and will be fully fielded by spring 2012.

Defence: Satellite Communications

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to increase the UK's unilateral access to satellite imagery for defence purposes. [41420]

Peter Luff: The current requirement for satellite imagery is met by a combination of commercial satellite imagery and interchange arrangements with allies. The Ministry of Defence currently has no plans for unilateral access to satellite imagery.

Departmental Pay

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to his Department was of staff on fixed-term *(a)* appointments and *(b)* contracts in (i) April 2010 and (ii) each subsequent month. [31561]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The total cost of employment of the Ministry of Defence's fixed-term appointees, including part-timers, has been as follows:

	Total cost of employment (£ million)
2010	
April	2.1
May	2.1
June	2.1
July	1.8
August	2.1
September	1.9
October	2.0
November	2.0
December	1.9

The figures include salary, taxable allowances paid with salary, performance awards (paid in August) and employer pension and national insurance costs.

Information on staff employed under contract from agencies is not currently held centrally, but we are currently improving its accessibility in the interests of transparency. The most significant numbers of fixed-term appointees are employed in engineering and science and in training and education.

The restrictions on external recruitment announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May 2010 have constrained the employment of new fixed-term appointees and staff employed under contract from agencies, although we remain committed to the employment of apprentices to help grow the engineering skills we need for the future.

I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual salary was of people on fixed-term contracts in his Department in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month. [31562]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The average annual salary of the Ministry of Defence's fixed-term appointees, including those working part time, has been as follows:

	Average annual salary (£)
2010	
April	29,275
May	29,008

	Average annual salary (£)
June	29,074
July	28,510
August	32,850
September	27,918
October	28,967
November	29,196
December	28,081

The figures include gross salary, any taxable allowances payable and the payment, in August, of annual performance awards. The most significant numbers of fixed-term appointees are employed in engineering and science and in training and education.

I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided Barnett consequential funding to any of the devolved administrations in *(a)* 2010-11 to date and *(b)* each of the last three years. [41325]

Mr Robathan: Defence is reserved to Her Majesty's Government for the benefit of the whole of the United Kingdom. There are not, and have never been, any Barnett consequentials to changes in the Defence budget.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37369]

Mr Robathan: Since 6 May 2010, the Ministry of Defence has not revoked any regulatory measures. However, we are currently reviewing our secondary legislation in two areas. Firstly,, regulations governing the Service Pensions Order (war pensions) and the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) are reviewed annually and updated where necessary. Additionally the AFCS will be re-made with amendments following the Review by Admiral the Lord Boyce. The statutory instrument giving effect to this will be laid on 28 February. Also being reviewed are existing Defence byelaws and other local instruments in relation to land occupied for Defence purposes.

Although regulations made by the MOD rarely impact on business, our reviews are being conducted with a view to rationalise the regulatory burden within these policy areas.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations his Department introduced between 19 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42082]

Mr Robathan: Between 19 November 2010 and 8 February 2011, the Ministry of Defence made one new statutory instrument, namely the Armed Forces Redundancy Etc. Schemes 2010 (Amendment) Order 2010 (SI 2011/208). The order serves mainly to update the two redundancy compensation schemes for the regular armed forces, and formed part of our current review of the legislation governing the Service Pensions and Compensation Schemes. Additionally three new prerogative instruments were made on 15 December 2010 in which the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 1975) was updated for each of the services. The amendments covered matters such as providing that death benefits in respect of service personnel who die while holding acting rank are based upon that rank, regardless of how long the acting rank was held. AFPS 1975 is set out in an Order in Council for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, a Royal Warrant for the Army and a Queen's Order for the RAF.

One other Order-in-Council relating to Defence matters was also made during this period. This was the Visiting Forces (Designation) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2970), which added Algeria to the existing list of those countries deemed to be Visiting Forces under the terms of the Visiting Forces Act 1952. This was required following the conclusion of a defence co-operation accord between the United Kingdom and Algeria in October 2009.

Departmental Security

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the reduction in size of his Department's Police Divisional Support Groups on his Department's ability to provide *(a)* security and *(b)* operational flexibility to its estate; whether any decisions have been taken on such reductions; and if he will make a statement. [41773]

Mr Robathan: A range of options for the Ministry of Defence's future requirement for civil policing services is currently under consideration. No final decisions have yet been taken.

Ex-servicemen

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number and proportion of veterans resident in each region. [42116]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held.

Ex-servicemen: Prison Sentences

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces veterans have served a prison sentence in a civilian prison in each of the last five years. [41837]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the joint statement I made with the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt) on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on the findings of a study by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) which estimated that 2,820 prisoners in prison in England and Wales had previously served in the armed forces. This equates to 3.5% of the prison population.

With regard to how many veterans have served a prison sentence in each of the last five years, this information is not held in the format requested.

France: Military Alliances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress he has made on bilateral defence co-operation with France; and if he will make a statement. [42795]

Dr Fox: We have taken a number of steps to implement the Defence and Security Co-operation treaty agreed with France on 2 November 2010.

There have been regular bilateral discussions including between Defence Ministers, the National Security Advisor, Chief of Defence Staff and Vice Chief of Defence Staff and their counterparts. We have discussed co-operation in the areas of operations, equipment and capabilities and have agreed a set of common objectives for this calendar year.

We will build on the existing close links between our armed forces in the coming months with a number of bilateral exercises with France aimed at increasing the levels of interoperability between our armed forces.

We have also made progress on the second treaty relating to collaboration on hydro-dynamics. The planned Teutates Technology Development Centre, to be built at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, and the Teutates Epure facility, to be built in Valduc, France, are now in the project concept phase. We expect they will be operational from 2015.

HMS Ark Royal

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any disposal arrangements for HMS Ark Royal have yet been made. [41503]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been made about the disposal arrangements for HMS Ark Royal. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 127W, to the hon. Member for Lewisham West and Penge (Jim Dowd).

Low Flying: Compensation

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many payments of compensation in respect of low flying have been made to recipients in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Scotland in each of the last three years, and what the monetary value of each such payment was. [39950]

Nick Harvey: The number of payments of compensation (including legal costs) made in respect of military low flying aircraft to claimants in Wales, England and Scotland in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table, together with the total amount of compensation paid. I will write to the hon. Member shortly giving details of the monetary value of each payment.

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	Number of claims	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of claims*	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of claims*	*Amount paid (£)*
Wales	33	73,662.41	14	68,890.29	10	25,583.39
England	73	211,287.92	99	812,626.46	78	397,301.09
Scotland	6	63,546.80	1	1,241.92	6	8,887.68

Substantive answer from Mr Robathan to Hywel Williams:

The Minister for the Armed Forces, Nick Harvey undertook to write to you in his reply to your question on 11 February 2011 (Official Report, columns 455-6W) about the number and value of compensation payments in regard to military low flying in Wales, England and Scotland in each of the last three years.

Please find attached lists containing the detailed monetary values of each payment. I should clarify that the amounts given cover not just compensation but, where appropriate, associated legal, veterinary and other expert costs.

Claims expenditure in respect of low flying claims in Wales (including costs where appropriate)

£

		Financial year	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	4,678.00	2,470.00	8,422.85
2	1,525.00	1,284.88	1,225.00
3	3,746.13	5,967.60	5,335.00
4	4,511.85	17,535.00	375.00
5	3,330.00	2,034.20	534.50
6	4,215.20	2,847.04	1,989.52
7	950.00	3,369.50	2,745.26
8	900.00	28,259.13	120.00
9	1,336.07	552.16	205.06
10	592.00	950.00	4,631.20
11	2,350.30	1,950.00	—
12	292.00	1,435.73	—
13	250.00	91.05	—
14	1,745.00	144.00	—
15	2,523.16	—	—
16	1,021.56	—	—
17	7,000.00	—	—
18	1,083.59	—	—
19	1,938.75	—	—
20	2,000.00	—	—
21	4,987.90	—	—
22	1,291.00	—	—
23	10,455.50	—	—
24	1,570.00	—	—
25	450.00	—	—
26	300.00	—	—
27	677.00	—	—
28	975.00	—	—
29	2,800.00	—	—
30	1,426.40	—	—
31	1,696.00	—	—
32	575.00	—	—
33	470.00	—	—
	73,662.41	68,890.29	25,583.39

Claims expenditure in respect of low flying claims in England (including costs where appropriate)

		Financial year	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	180.00	363.41	845.81

Claims expenditure in respect of low flying claims in England (including costs where appropriate)

	Financial year		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
2	150.00	11,740.63	5,513.80
3	20,966.26	3,450.00	287.50
4	1,495.00	600.00	574.00
5	3,049.50	4,117.50	1,507.96
6	186.06	3,626.06	1,977.84
7	605.13	526.50	98,339.54
8	841.07	45.00	291.74
9	443.68	925.43	570.40
10	291.50	3,590.58	588.40
11	5,740.25	12,443.14	987.50
12	232.55	124.00	1,265.53
13	1,239.80	1,000.00	2,531.21
14	2,322.50	328.51	450.00
15	3,092.03	223.25	180.00
16	6,000.00	4,738.95	1,064.00
17	254.75	45,337.26	2,500.00
18	1,500.00	746.55	4,531.00
19	392.54	3,699.22	337.00
20	1,095.62	224.00	97.52
21	146.99	70.00	1,130.00
22	4,692.00	95.00	237.50
23	484.97	1,485.39	180.00
24	985.00	4,920.70	1,361.14
25	2,699.25	1,100.69	394.00
26	527.06	6,642.50	180.00
27	405.38	3,761.13	350.00
28	1,000.00	8,230.85	2,089.13
29	48.00	8,065.00	281.68
30	2,484.08	2,000.00	72.00
31	5,249.06	214.13	12,300.00
32	5,329.69	117,385.88	433.62
33	1,539.51	1,648.70	38,270.00
34	10,860.00	1,304.03	22,759.63
35	1,200.00	750.78	1,186.88
36	150.00	362.50	309.00
37	408.74	2,200.00	2,258.34
38	680.40	4,171.25	1,497.75
39	2,793.13	100.00	450.00
40	98.58	126.00	493.50
41	1,812.00	1,981.57	4,891.66
42	62.11	587.50	43,949.80
43	4,490.50	1,647.90	149.00
44	120.67	29,728.70	1,500.00
45	8,050.00	10,896.68	11,000.00
46	2,240.00	16,420.03	649.50
47	5,100.00	3,500.00	2,086.25
48	166.09	148.05	4,837.50
49	2,098.72	52,111.80	647.00
50	447.36	1,386.00	2,488.50
51	275.00	1,147.00	350.00
52	1,146.64	312.49	673.90
53	5,228.99	90.00	777.82
54	120.00	900.00	1,259.25
55	3,696.03	970.04	2,750.00
56	3,775.91	3,216.80	466.08
57	189.50	1,122.50	8,720.25
58	8,265.12	1,057.50	545.00
59	19,551.00	411.09	595.35
60	3,256.15	1,768.41	10,295.61
61	350.00	800.00	148.58
62	1,539.61	18,181.31	750.00
63	1,588.13	1,172.99	6,416.21
64	3,525.00	275.00	2,625.00
65	2,150.00	1,658.00	4,546.25
66	1,645.00	3,995.00	27,750.00
67	544.00	1,004.25	17,000.00
68	22,526.00	1,500.00	12,777.00
69	288.46	428.88	1,750.26
70	110.00	150.00	237.50
71	10,973.44	217.50	537.50
72	2,546.41	2,449.00	240.00
73	550.00	662.50	8,170.00
74	—	3,028.56	583.50
75	—	550.60	1,138.50
76	—	150.00	2,928.40
77	—	1,277.59	345.00
78	—	327,500.00	50.00
79	—	180.44	—
80	—	729.30	—
81	—	12,704.13	—
82	—	1,000.00	—
83	—	5,505.00	—
84	—	1,104.55	—
85	—	3,920.00	—
86	—	7,988.44	—
87	—	409.66	—
88	—	653.17	—
89	—	8,049.81	—
90	—	1,702.00	—
91	—	1,628.52	—
92	—	164.16	—
93	—	82.99	—
94	—	790.63	—
95	—	370.00	—
96	—	110.00	—
97	—	4,415.80	—
98	—	3,890.00	—
99	—	338.10	—
	211,287.92	812,626.46	397,301.09

Claims expenditure in respect of low flying claims in Scotland (including costs where appropriate)

			£
	Financial year		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	38,935.82	1,241.92	1,674.81
2	1,562.75	—	1,983.39
3	1,500.00	—	744.97
4	16,287.63	—	1,591.42
5	460.60	—	2,800.00
6	4,800.00	—	93.09
	63,546.80	1,241.92	8,887.68

Programmes of Engagement

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what formal engagement his Department and the armed forces have with their counterparts in *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Bahrain and *(c)* Indonesia. [42193]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence has programmes of engagement with Egypt, Bahrain and Indonesia that aim to enhance bilateral relationships and support the UK Government's wider foreign policy goals. They consist of a wide range of activities including, but not limited to:

providing places on defence education and training courses in the UK (such as the Army, RAF and Navy junior officer training and the joint services advanced command and staff course);

the deployment of UK personnel in support of joint exercises and military advisory teams;

the deployment of short term training teams to deliver subject specific training in country;

advisory visits, defence staff talks and senior leadership engagement either in the UK or in country.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the details of individual programmes as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the UK and other states.

MRSA: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he is taking to allow the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's product BacLite, for screening against the MRSA bacterium, to be marketed in the UK; [43010]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's product BacLite for the detection of the MRSA bacterium; and if he will make a statement. [43011]

Peter Luff: Due to legal proceedings, I am limited in what I can say.

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) originally developed a technology for the rapid detection of bacteria, which was then made available to Acolyte under licence. Acolyte, with external venture capital, looked to exploit this technology for the detection of the MRSA bacterium in the civilian sector via the BacLite product. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not made any assessment of the BacLite product with respect to its MRSA detection capability.

Following the liquidation of Acolyte in October 2009, the original intellectual property rights underpinning the failed BacLite product reverted to the ownership of Dstl. As the development of a product to detect MRSA is not part of the Department's core business, we have no intention to resurrect the BacLite product for such purposes.

Nuclear Weapons

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which *(a)* locations and *(b)* facilities the planned deferral of £1 billion from future spending on infrastructure for the Trident replacement programme announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be made. [40532]

Dr Fox: The £1 billion deferral of expenditure on infrastructure, including the Command and Control elements in the nuclear firing chain, refers principally to previously expected spend on facilities at HMNB Clyde and HMNB Devonport. However, planning is not yet at the stage when more details could be provided.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department budgeted for the Trident replacement concept phase at its outset, including on submarine design, propulsion and the common missile compartment; and how much has been spent on that phase to date. [40541]

Dr Fox: The 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (cmd 6994) gave a broad estimate of between £11 billion and £14 billion at 2006-07 prices for a four boat fleet.

The forecast cost and relevant approval dates of the elements of the concept phase are shown in the following table.

	Date	*Value (£ million)*
Boat and Propulsion Concept work	May 2007	309
Common Missile Compartment	October 2008	283
United States High Steam Generators and technology	April 2009	59
Extension to Concept Phase	November 2009	254
Total		905

Figures in the table are given to the nearest million.

Of this forecast total, £687 million had been spent to the end of January 2011.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review identified a total of £1.2 billion of savings and £2 billion of deferrals within the nuclear programme over the next 10 years. These savings are attributable to submarine production, the nuclear warhead, supporting infrastructure and improved efficiency at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has allocated to spend on the Trident replacement programme in the assessment phase prior to main gate; [40544]

(2) what the projected cost to the public purse is of long-lead items for purchase ahead of the Trident replacement main gate decision. [40548]

Dr Fox: The programme to replace the Vanguard class has still to enter the assessment phase. The initial gate business case for the assessment phase of the programme is currently being reviewed. It is not possible to confirm the value of long-lead items or assessment phase provision before the assessment phase programme has been approved. Moreover, we do not routinely publish figures for anticipated project expenditure, as to do so would prejudice commercial interests.

RAF Welford

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse is of the security enhancement to the US base at RAF Welford; and from which budget such expenditure was drawn. [42434]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 225-26W.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which unmanned aerial vehicles comply with the Rules of the Air (R307) in non-segregated airspace. [41892]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence does not operate unmanned aerial vehicles in non-segregated airspace.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what procedures are in place for aborting the flight of unmanned aerial vehicles in *(a)* UK non-segregated airspace, *(b)* UK segregated airspace and *(c)* UK Danger Areas; [41893]

(2) how many flights by an unmanned aerial vehicle have taken place in *(a)* UK non-segregated airspace, *(b)* UK segregated airspace and *(c)* UK Danger Areas in each of the last three years; [41894]

(3) which unmanned aerial vehicles are equipped with *(a)* an approved Sense and Avoid capability and *(b)* a Secondary Surveillance Radar Mode S transponder; [41954]

(4) which types of unmanned aerial vehicles can fly in each classification of UK airspace; [41955]

(5) what procedures are in place to deal with loss of control of an unmanned aerial vehicle in *(a)* UK non-segregated airspace, *(b)* UK segregated airspace and *(c)* UK Danger Areas. [41956]

Peter Luff: Within the UK, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) procured by the Ministry of Defence operate only in segregated airspace, specifically restricted airspace (temporary), and in danger areas.

The pilots of MOD procured UAVs comply with the Military Aviation Authority's Military Aviation Regulatory Document Set. Should a flight be aborted, standard operating procedures applicable to each UAV type allow a safe recovery, either to an established airfield or to a pre-selected emergency recovery site. In the event of a loss of the control link between the ground station and the aircraft, a UAV will revert to a pre-programmed emergency flight plan and fly to an established airfield where operators will attempt to regain the control link or, failing that, continue to a pre-selected emergency recovery site where it will automatically land. The flight-paths of UAVs operating in UK segregated airspace and danger areas are designed to minimise or eliminate the overflight of populated areas, thus mitigating risk to third parties to the absolute minimum.

The following table provides details of MOD procured UAV flights in UK segregated (i.e. restricted) airspace and in danger areas, in each of the last three financial years.

		Financial year		
UAV	*Type of airspace*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (to date)*
Watchkeeper	Segregated	0	0	13
	Danger area	0	0	1
Desert Hawk III	Segregated	0	0	0
	Danger area	0	174	100

No MOD procured UAVs are equipped with an approved sense and avoid capability. The Watchkeeper UAV, which is not yet in-service, is fitted with a Secondary Surveillance Radar Mode S Transponder. No other MOD procured UAV has this capability.

USA: Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for bearing the cost of each development on a US base in the UK. [42435]

Mr Robathan: The US forces use land and buildings in the UK in accordance with the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty—Agreement regarding the Status of Forces of Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (UK ratification 13 May 1945) and the Cost Sharing Arrangement (CSA) (1973).

The US authorities are responsible for bearing the cost of any development, unless that development is a requirement of UK legislation or Ministry of Defence policy and there is no equivalent United States legal or policy requirement, in which case the costs fall to the Department.

Royal Navy Ships

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Navy ships are deployed on operations at sea; where each is deployed; and what the purpose is of each such deployment. [41877]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy ships deployed on operations, their mission and where they are deployed as at 16 February 2011 are as follows:

Op Telic

Maintenance of integrity and security of Iraqi Territorial Seas.

HMS Iron Duke
HMS Chiddingfold
HMS Grimsby
HMS Pembroke
HMS Middleton
RFA Lyme Bay

Arabian Gulf Tanker

Replenishment of coalition units in the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and North Indian Ocean.

RFA Bay leaf

Op Calash

Counter Piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian Ocean.

HMS Cornwall
RFA Diligence
RFA Fort Victoria

Op Atalanta

NATO Counter Piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian Ocean.

HMS Richmond

Gibraltar Patrol

The Security of Gibraltar Territorial Seas.

HMS Sabre

HMS Scimitar

Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Maritime Group 1

A continuous maritime capability for mine-countermeasures integration within NATO Response Force (NRF) operations, non NRF operations and other activities in peacetime and periods of crisis and conflict.

HMS Brocklesby

Atlantic Patrol Tasking (North)

UK's maritime contribution to the Caribbean and North Atlantic area. Protection of UK interests, humanitarian role in response to the natural disasters, especially hurricanes, which are prevalent in this region.

RFA Wave Ruler

Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South)

The standing naval commitment to the South Atlantic and West African regions. Provide a maritime presence to protect the British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and UK's interests in the region.

HMS Gloucester

RFA Black Rover

Falkland Island Patrol Ship

Permanently stationed in the region, responsible for maintaining British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

HMS Clyde

Fishery Protection

Patrolling UK's extended Fisheries Zone.

HMS Tyne

HMS Severn

HMS Mersey

Survey Operations

Survey operations throughout the world using the latest techniques to provide information for Admiralty charts and nautical publications and in particular updating the charts covering the waters around the United Kingdom.

HMS Enterprise—Gulf

HMS Echo—Gulf

HMS Scott—Falklands/South Atlantic

UK Contingency Operations

Royal Navy Maritime Security units at readiness to react to any possible threat to the integrity of UK Territorial Seas and security of the UK.

HMS Westminster

HMS Campbeltown

HMS Portland

HMS Ramsey

HMS Hurworth

World War II: Military Decorations

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 661W, if he will bring forward proposals to award those who served in Bomber Command during the Second World War with a campaign medal; and if he will make a statement. [42957]

Mr Robathan: The Coalition undertook in its programme for government to review the rules governing the award of medals for the armed forces. This review has considered campaigns by veterans and other interested parties for new awards, including the campaign to institute a medal for service in Bomber Command during world war two. The review recently reported its findings to Defence Ministers and is now with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister for their consideration.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to respond to question *(a)* 36375 and *(b)* 36579, on defence equipment, tabled on 24 January for named day answer on 27 January. [42340]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 917-18W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anorexia: Internet

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take in relation to websites that promote attitudes that encourage the development of anorexia in children and young people. [41615]

James Brokenshire: Keeping children safe is a priority for this Government and, while the internet is a valuable resource, it is important that we protect our children and young people. Through the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), we will continue to work with the internet industry and charities to restrict exposure to harmful or inappropriate material. UKCCIS is also working to ensure that vulnerable young people are signposted towards trusted sources of information, such as the charity b-eat or NHS Choices, where they can get help and support when looking for such information, and is creating appropriate and intelligent moderation practices so that when discussions of such a nature are initiated they are appropriately moderated.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) were granted in Coventry in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and what the most common reason for granting an ASBO was in this period. [42870]

James Brokenshire: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available to courts in England and Wales from 1 April 1999 and data on orders issued are compiled at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. The latest published data on ASBOs cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2009.

In 2009, 119 ASBOs were issued in the west midlands CJS area, which includes Coventry. ASBO data covering the period to the end of 2010 are planned for publication on 13 October 2011.

The specific nature of the antisocial behaviour which led to the ASBO being issued is not centrally recorded by the Ministry of Justice and would need to be ascertained by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Association of Chief Police Officers: Freedom of Information

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 664W, on police: freedom of information, for what reasons the Association of Chief Police Officers will not be brought within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with immediate effect. [41579]

Nick Herbert: The Government have said that they plan to bring the Association of Chief Police Officers within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act. This requires an order to be laid before Parliament designating the Association of Chief Police Officers as a public authority for the purposes of the Act. My right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, intends to introduce this order in the spring, to commence as soon as practicable.

Cabinet Office: Internet

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations she has received from members of the public via the Your Freedom website; and how many such representations were for legislative provisions which were subsequently included in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. [41659]

James Brokenshire: There were 15,238 individual ideas submitted to the Your Freedom website between 1 July and 10 September 2010.

A large number of the provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Bill were addressed in some way by contributors to the website. Among the many issues raised and subsequently addressed in the Bill were:

the retention of DNA profiles and fingerprints (chapter 1 of part 1 of the Bill);

the fingerprinting of children in schools (chapter 2 of part 1);

the regulation of CCTV (chapter 1 of part 2);

the use of RIPA powers by local authorities (chapter 2 of part 2);

limiting powers of entry (chapter 1 of part 3);

tackling rogue wheel clamping (chapter 2 of part 3);

introducing safeguards against the misuse of counter-terrorism legislation, including in relation to pre-charge detention and stop and search powers (part 4);

reform of the Vetting and Barring Scheme and criminal records regime (chapters 1 and 2 of part 5);

the disclosure of decriminalised convictions for consensual gay sex (chapter 3 of part 5);

the provision of datasets in a reusable format (clause 92); and

removal of the restrictions on times for marriages (clause 100).

Cannabis: Misuse

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the levels of long-term usage of cannabis; what drug classification has been applied to cannabis in each of the last 30 years; and if she will make a statement. [42203]

James Brokenshire: Cannabis has been controlled as a Class B drug under Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 for most of the past 30 years. Its classification was downgraded to Class C in January 2004. In January 2009 it was reclassified to Class B.

Estimates on the prevalence of cannabis use are provided in the annual Drug Misuse Declared publication that covers the extent and trends in illicit drug use among 16 to 59-year-olds in England and Wales, which is based on British Crime Survey (BCS) data on self-reported drug use in the last year. The report is published at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/surveydrugstats.html

In April 2009, questions were introduced into the BCS to ask respondents the age at which they first took cannabis. With the inclusion of questions from April 2010 to ask respondents the age at which they last took the drug, the BCS will be able to provide some estimates for use of cannabis over time.

Counter-terrorism: Plea Bargaining

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will institute a review of the use of plea bargaining arrangements in counter-terrorism cases; and if she will make a statement. [40514]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 February 2011]*: As set out in the findings from the review of counter-terrorism and security powers, which the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend announced to Parliament on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 306-26 and which are available on the Home Office website:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/counter-terrorism/review-of-ct-security-powers/

the Government are taking forward work to increase the evidence and intelligence dividend from defendants and prisoners in terrorism cases. Sections 71-74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 give a statutory basis for defendants and prisoners to provide evidence and intelligence which may assist the prosecution in return for immunity from prosecution or a possible reduction in sentence. The Government are looking at ways in which the use of these provisions in terrorism cases to support our prosecution efforts can be increased. Given different judicial systems this will be different from the US-style 'plea bargaining'.

Crime

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of police authorities on the effects of funding allocations on the capacity of specialist units; and if she will commission a report to assess the capacity available to police forces to investigate and bring to justice people charged with committing rape, murder, people trafficking or money laundering. [40639]

Nick Herbert: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and I have had a range of meetings with chief constables, representatives of police authorities and others to discuss aspects of the police settlement and individual force allocations.

The investigation of all criminal offences is an operational matter for the police service. It is for chief constables in consultation with police authorities to make decisions on the deployment of police officers within the available resource. The Government believe that the settlement for the police is fair and manageable and, if savings are made in the right areas, the service to the public can be maintained and even improved.

Tackling trafficking is core police business. Tactical advice for police forces engaged in investigations into human trafficking is provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Funding has also been provided for police-led multi-agency Regional Asset Recovery Teams which provide specialist capability across the country to tackle criminal finances including money laundering.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of *(a)* long-term crime rates and *(b)* long-term fear of crime rates. [42112]

James Brokenshire: There are two main sources of official statistics on crime in England and Wales; police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey (BCS). Long-term crime rates from both sources have been published in the annual statistical bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales 2009-10' (Tables 2.03 and 2.07), a copy of which is available in the House Libraries.

It is difficult to make a general assessment of long-term crime rates because while the BCS has employed a consistent methodology over time it does not cover all crimes and the police recorded crime series has been subject to a number of changes in public reporting and police recording practices over time.

The BCS has included some questions related to specific aspects of fear of crime and trends have also been published in 'Crime in England and Wales 2009-10' (Tables 5.07).

Criminal Records Bureau

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to transferring the work of the Criminal Records Bureau to the private sector. [41940]

Lynne Featherstone: The reports into the Vetting and Barring Scheme Review and Phase 1 of the Criminal Records Review, published on 11 February, made a number of recommendations in relation to the work of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). As a result the Government are retaining and building upon the disclosure service provided by the CRB.

The changes resulting from these recommendations will create a more convenient and proportionate system for both employers and voluntary organisations and for people seeking to work or volunteer with children and vulnerable adults.

I can confirm that there are no current plans to privatise the work of the CRB.

Domestic Violence

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were (i) arrested for and (ii) convicted of offences of domestic violence in the last three years for which figures are available. [41480]

Lynne Featherstone: Information on the number of domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident from 2007-08 to 2008-09 and the number of convictions of domestic violence offences from 2007-08 to 2009-10 are given in the table.

Statistics on domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident ceased to be collected from 2009-10.

Data on the gender of domestic violence offenders are not available centrally.

Arrests and convictions for domestic violence offences in England and Wales, 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Number of domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident	*Number of convictions for domestic violence offences*[1]
2007-08	215,298	43,977
2008-09	218,687	48,465
2009-10[2]	—	53,347

[1] Convictions data are provided by the Crown Prosecution Service.

[2] Data on the number of domestic violence incidents where an arrest was made relating to the incident are not collected from 2009-10.

Driving: Health

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are open to the police to take immediate action to prevent a motorist from driving in situations where a person's age or infirmity gives concern as to their competence to drive; and if she will make a statement. [41702]

James Brokenshire: The police have no general power to take immediate action to prevent a person driving in the situation described. If, however, a check of the Police National Computer shows that a driver's licence has been revoked because of a medical condition, including a condition related to age or infirmity, the police have the power to seize the driver's vehicle to prevent it from being driven. In addition, the police can require a driver to undertake an eyesight test. If the test is failed, the police will notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) which will conduct the necessary inquiries which may lead to licence revocation.

Drugs: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the effects of trends in youth unemployment on future levels of cocaine use. [42121]

James Brokenshire: The Government's Drug Strategy published in December makes it clear that we intend to create an environment where the vast majority of people who have never taken drugs continue to resist any pressure to do so. This is key to reducing the huge societal costs, particularly the lost ambition and potential of young drug users.

The ambitions of the Drug Strategy are cross departmental. Ministers from the Department for Work and Pensions are already closely involved in the oversight of delivery and discussions on the implementation of the new strategy.

Electronic Surveillance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to establish a maximum fine for an offence of unintentional interception greater than that proposed in her consultation on amendments to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [41063]

Nick Herbert: The appropriate maximum monetary penalty for unintentional unlawful interception is being considered in the light of the consultation responses and will be set out in new regulations.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of introducing mandatory breach notifications to inform individuals when their communications have been intercepted intentionally or unintentionally without consent. [41064]

Nick Herbert: The Government will be bringing forward legislation to provide for a sanction for unlawful interception that is carried out unintentionally. This will include the mechanism by which the sanction will be administered by the interception of communications commissioner, and guidance will be issued on the handling of complaints and the publication of decisions made by the commissioner.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to ensure the transparency of the work of the interception of communications commissioner in relation to private sector interception. [41065]

Nick Herbert: The Government will be bringing forward legislation that will provide for the administration of a new sanction for unlawful interception that is carried out unintentionally. The regulations will set out how the sanction will operate and it is our intention that the office of the interception of communications commissioner will issue guidance in relation to the administration of the sanction.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to demonstrate the independence of the interception of communications commissioner under her proposals to amend the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [41066]

Nick Herbert: The commissioner, who holds or must have held high judicial office, is appointed by the Prime Minister under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. He is independent and not part of the Executive and has a number of reporting duties and powers including making an annual report to the Prime Minister on the carrying out of his functions. The report is laid before Parliament.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the potential for duplication of investigation functions between the Office of the Information Commissioner and the interception of communications commissioner. [41067]

Nick Herbert: The offices of the Information Commissioner and the interception of communications commissioner perform separate and distinct oversight functions, and their respective responsibilities are set out clearly in the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In the Government's view, there are no duplication of investigative functions.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her proposals to amend the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 include the creation of a commissioner to investigate intentional illegal interception. [41068]

Nick Herbert: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 provides for an offence of unlawful interception. The police are responsible for investigating cases where a person is suspected of intercepting communications intentionally and without lawful authority. The Crown Prosecution Service is responsible for prosecuting such cases, subject to the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Forensic Science Service

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with representatives of ACPO on the effects of the proposed closure of the Forensic Science Service on crime investigation. [41388]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is in regular dialogue with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on the operational transition of services, which is being co-ordinated by a national ACPO and National Policing Improvement Agency team. ACPO has been clear that the forensics market can cope with the managed wind-down of the Forensic Science Service (FSS).

The continued provision of effective forensics is a priority and the Home Office is therefore supporting the wind-down process. This includes the necessary financial support so that FSS can maintain services to the Criminal Justice System (CJS) where there is an operational need, while transition arrangements are put in place.

Harassment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women have reported being stalked or harassed to the police in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [42369]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not available centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on offences recorded by the police rather than those reported to them. However, it is not possible to identify centrally the sex of the victim for recorded offences of stalking or harassment.

The Government are committed to tackling all forms of violence against women and girls, including stalking, and published their vision and guiding principles in this area on 25 November 2010. A detailed range of supporting actions, including those on tackling stalking, will be published in the spring.

Human Trafficking: Children

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on tackling organised gangs involved in trafficking children into the UK in the last 12 months. [41857]

Damian Green: Human trafficking is a horrendous crime and a very serious offence and this Government are strongly committed to tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery.

Combating human trafficking is a core part of local operational policing. Recent success in this area has included the work of Operation Golf, a joint investigation of child trafficking between the Metropolitan Police Service and the Romanian National Police, which resulted in a significant number of criminals arrested and trafficked children safeguarded.

The Government are currently working on a new human trafficking strategy which will have as one of its aims a greater focus on identifying and disrupting organised criminal networks involved in human trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Football

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had recent discussions with representatives of *(a)* the Football Association and *(b)* FIFA on the trafficking of minors into Europe from Africa by football agents. [42994]

James Brokenshire: There have been no discussions with either the Football Association or FIFA on this matter.

Immigration

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on measures to break links between temporary immigration routes and permanent settlement. [41382]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 134-135W, in response to his earlier question.

Information on forthcoming changes to the rules for acquiring settlement may be found in a Statement of Intent on proposed changes to the operation of Tier 2 of the points based system and the requirements for indefinite leave to remain which was published on 16 February 2011 and is available on the UK Border Agency website.

Licensing Laws

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on reform of late-night licensing laws. [41739]

James Brokenshire: The Government intend to implement a late night levy which is set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill currently before the House. The levy is an optional power for licensing authorities to charge businesses who sell alcohol late at night. The money raised will contribute to the costs incurred by the police and other services in keeping the late night economy a safe place to do business.

Additionally, the proposals in the Bill will give a discretionary power to licensing authorities to make an early morning restriction order to prevent the sale of alcohol during any specified period between 12 am and 6 am in a particular part, or all, of the local area where a concentration of licensed premises is contributing to crime and disorder and other problems late at night.

Missing People

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were reported as missing in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those reported as missing have subsequently been found. [41746]

James Brokenshire: A Code of Practice for the collection of Missing Persons data was introduced in April 2009. While data are available for 2009-10, staged implementation of the Code of Practice means that some police forces have not yet been able to provide the required data. The figures provided are therefore likely to be an underestimate of the total number of persons reported as missing.

In 2009-10, 231,158 incidents of missing persons were reported to the Missing Persons Bureau by police forces in England and Wales. Some of these incidents will relate to individuals who have been reported missing more than once.

The figures are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The proportion of individuals reported as missing who have subsequently been found is not held centrally.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent co-operation there has been with police forces in *(a)* Europe and *(b)* the US to determine whether people who are reported as missing are in those countries. [41747]

James Brokenshire: This is a matter for the individual police force concerned. However, on a case by case basis the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) facilitates enquiries between UK police forces and police forces/ law enforcement agencies abroad, both directly and through Interpol.

Passport Office: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of the passport office in Liverpool; and if she will make a statement. [41330]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) carried out a review of all of its estate and staff capacity in the light of anticipated future demand. As a result of that review, IPS is currently conducting a collective consultation process with staff, trade unions and interested parties, and will shortly be publishing an impact assessment covering all five passports offices (Belfast, Durham, Liverpool, Newport and Peterborough).

Police: Accountability

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account she has taken of the differing sizes of police force areas in her proposals for introduction of police and crime commissioners. [41635]

Nick Herbert: Police and crime commissioners will be elected with a force-wide mandate, and represent all citizens in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. In order to give effect to this the police and crime commissioners (PCC) must ensure that their Police and Crime Plan is tailored to reflect the needs of the varied and diverse communities within the force area. The plan will be prepared in consultation with those communities, and in consultation with the chief constable.

The new police and crime panels will also help to reflect the diversity of different force areas, as local councils will decide amongst themselves how best to appoint councillors that best represent the force area's population.

The Government have made provision in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill that in larger force areas with more than 12 councils (such as the Thames Valley force area) each council will be allocated one seat on the panel, ensuring that all councils enjoy representation on it.

The Government envisage that police and crime commissioner salaries will vary to reflect the differing size and complexity of forces, and have asked the Senior Salaries Review Body for advice on this.

Police: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers are assigned to duties in Halifax. [41111]

Nick Herbert: Constituency level data are not collected centrally. Available data relating to police and police community support officers for Calderdale basic command unit, at March 31 2010 are provided in the following table.

The latest provisional police service strength statistics were published on 27 January 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

Bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police and police community support officers (PCSOs) strength, Calderdale basic command unit, 31 March 2010[1]

	Number
Police officers	365
PCSOs	48

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Manpower

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force spent on *(a)* police overtime and *(b)* special priority payments in each of the last 10 years. [40582]

Nick Herbert: Data on overtime spending by each police force is published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The data for forces in England and Wales are shown in the following table.

Police officer overtime spend

£000

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	3,443	5,112	7,000	6,899	6,870	5,351	5,801	6,996	6,535	6,239
Bedfordshire	2,709	3,992	4,106	4,708	4,693	4,181	4,398	3,993	3,962	4,079
Cambridgeshire	2,920	4,102	5,175	4,238	n/a	5,550	4,976	4,238	4,584	3,370
Cheshire	3,175	3,200	4,751	4,261	3,278	3,951	5,275	6,925	4,425	4,554
Cleveland	2,096	2,996	4,035	3,479	2,188	4,038	4,834	4,369	3,813	3,306
Cumbria	1,730	2,095	n/a	2,314	2,201	2,317	2,042	2,444	1,712	1,359
Derbyshire	2,718	3,278	4,010	3,542	4,009	3,822	3,778	4,854	4,256	3,533
Devon and Cornwall	4,831	7,658	6,441	5,476	6,026	6,566	6,568	6,548	6,467	5,120
Dorset	1,976	2,233	2,880	2,790	3,581	3,089	3,413	3,243	3,181	2,608
Durham	2,538	3,083	3,151	2,868	3,325	3,158	3,221	3,596	2,702	2,678
Dyfed-Powys	1,694	2,017	2,458	1,794	1,936	2,163	2,724	2,566	2,329	2,339
Essex	8,708	8,401	10,601	8,678	10,444	10,688	10,944	11,732	9,623	7,714
Gloucestershire	2,209	2,337	3,257	3,430	2,766	3,273	2,854	3,353	2,662	3,519
Greater Manchester	12,518	15,981	19,438	14,727	16,138	16,226	22,671	23,322	23,319	20,875
Gwent	2,993	3,020	3,184	4,077	3,447	4,123	3,993	4,134	3,548	3,299
Hampshire	7,109	8,557	11,603	9,703	11,818	11,243	12,001	11,480	8,871	8,091
Hertfordshire	7,056	n/a	9,036	7,494	6,854	6,576	6,742	7,272	7,196	5,663
Humberside	4,486	5,760	5,790	5,375	5,896	5,991	7,461	6,874	5,402	5,598
Kent	6,941	7,420	10,301	9,523	9,877	11,405	11,992	n/a	10,084	7,055

Police officer overtime spend

£000

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Lancashire	4,772	6,773	9,595	7,758	7,057	7,226	7,349	8,918	7,801	7,004
Leicestershire	2,946	3,305	4,404	4,123	4,342	4,720	4,482	5,476	5,169	4,527
Lincolnshire	2,945	2,537	3,199	2,193	2,856	2.345	2,214	3,708	2,680	2,490
London, City of	2,065	2,375	2,602	2,135	2,185	1,955	1,096	2,731	2,141	2,342
Merseyside	8,848	10,455	11,144	11,637	12,577	12,103	11,215	11,071	10,847	10,853
Metropolitan Police	94,930	96,428	112,228	132,815	135,717	150,274	136,901	144,957	137,876	n/a
Norfolk	3,848	3,737	3,884	3,653	3,950	3,640	3,374	4,201	3,298	3,034
Northamptonshire	2,594	2,740	3,446	3,885	3,403	4,099	2,767	3,626	2,829	2,463
Northumbria	4,421	4,776	6,217	6,452	7,395	7,736	8,135	7,878	7,424	8,138
North Wales	2,197	n/a	2,688	1,311	2,991	2,246	834	3,478	2,738	3,056
North Yorkshire	3,738	3,584	3,534	3,199	3,690	4,889	4,352	2,996	2,477	3,992
Nottinghamshire	3,210	4,304	4,626	n/a	6,782	5,886	5,091	n/a	5,469	6,057
South Wales	4,181	3,993	4,977	5,328	6,291	5,002	6,473	n/a	6,449	6,180
South Yorkshire	5,605	n/a	8,097	7,601	8,962	9,467	9,605	10,167	8,329	9,209
Staffordshire	4,664	5,089	7,580	6,241	5,973	6,054	5,210	5,104	4,969	5,277
Suffolk	1,760	1,776	1,815	2,031	2,171	2,041	3,467	3,543	2,856	2,100
Surrey	5,028	5,674	6,573	5,679	6,228	6,322	6,354	5,930	4,643	4,875
Sussex	14,418	8,159	6,098	7,971	8,887	8,213	7,271	5,946	6,598	6,684
Thames Valley	8,381	12,052	12,006	11,504	12,345	11,810	15,897	13,762	n/a	10,767
Warwickshire	1,773	1,811	2,207	1,945	2,279	3,056	3,207	3,753	3,330	2,341
West Mercia	3,837	4,495	4,857	4,503	4,491	4,107	5,237	5,560	5,770	4,864
West Midlands	11,366	n/a	18,785	16,637	18,009	23,496	20,081	24,152	21,301	17,951
West Yorkshire	7,322	11,839	13,510	10,997	13,549	13,323	13,244	18,128	13,790	12,496
Wiltshire	1,850	1,770	1,940	1,440	2,430	1,903	2,385	n/a	3,180	1,654

n/a = Data not available.

Source:

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

The Home Office does not collect information on spending on special priority payments from forces. However, from 2003-04 to 2005-06, the Home Office provided forces with ring-fenced funding for special priority payments. The following table sets out the funding provided which is not necessarily identical to the amount spent because forces could have spent more than the allocated funding.

£

		SPP	
Force	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	865,015	1,304,015	1,675,979
Bedfordshire	300,000	415,290	533,749
Cambridgeshire	416,000	598,686	769,458
Cheshire	619,091	870,356	1,118,621
Cleveland	40,000	633,730	814,498
Cumbria	340,000	533,474	685,645
Derbyshire	585,467	845,415	1,086,565
Devon and Cornwall	855,000	1,238,250	1,591,455
Dorset	384,000	543,034	697,932
Durham	443,360	627,405	806,369
Essex	929,667	1,175,841	1,511,244
Gloucestershire	302,867	519,078	667,143
Hampshire	1,150,667	1,546,957	1,988,218
Hertfordshire	580,000	854,146	1,097,787
Humberside	616,000	935,554	1,202,416
Kent	992,100	1,508,485	1,938,774
Lancashire	579,375	1,329,004	1,708,096
Leicestershire	572,000	826,756	1,062,584
Lincolnshire	369,289	494,931	636,107
Norfolk	472,000	640,750	823,521
Northamptonshire	403,192	562,389	722,808
North Yorkshire	410,000	689,487	886,159
Nottinghamshire	750,000	1,028,408	1,321,756
Staffordshire	749,331	937,079	1,204,376
Suffolk	350,000	475,831	611,559
Surrey	534,061	764,664	982,780
Sussex	900,000	1,189,117	1,528,307
Thames Valley	1,140,519	1,573,938	2,022,897
Warwickshire	288,000	422,945	543,588
West Mercia	682,000	899,788	1,156,449
Wiltshire	352,911	451,820	580,699
Greater Manchester	2,412,673	3,021,406	3,883,248
Merseyside	1,312,000	1,805,686	2,320,749
Northumbria	1,186,429	1,652,794	2,124,245
South Yorkshire	959,300	1,267,082	1,628,510
West Midlands	2,262,768	2,956,560	3,799,905
West Yorkshire	1,300,000	1,879,600	2,415,747
Metropolitan	7,733,333	11,364,532	14,606,210
COLP	—	341,980	439,529
Dyfed-Powys	322,000	462,294	594,161
Gwent	394,443	565,567	726,892
North Wales	440,191	703,830	904,594
South Wales	890,000	1,228,300	1,578,666

Police: Recruitment

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to introduce greater flexibility into police recruitment. [41212]

Nick Herbert: Police forces in England and Wales are responsible for managing their recruitment and selection processes according to local needs and circumstances, in line with national guidance.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has provided guidance that seeks to provide flexibility of entry routes to become a police officer, available at the following NPIA website link:

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Pre_Join_Guidance_0111_CA_HA_Ful_doc__6_.pdf

Entry routes for police officer roles can include candidates having served in the Special Constabulary or as a police community support officer and recognition of prior learning, such as relevant knowledge based certificates or foundation degrees.

Public Reading Stage

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of her Office will be working on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* the introduction of a public reading day within a Bill's committee stage. [41655]

James Brokenshire: As announced by the Deputy Prime Minister in a written ministerial statement on 15 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 73WS, the Protection of Freedoms Bill is being used to pilot the new "public reading stage" of a Bill. As indicated in that statement the pilot will not involve changes to Standing Orders or the procedures of the House and accordingly the pilot will not involve a "public reading day" during the Committee stage of the Bill. The Bill team (which comprises three members of staff) will, alongside their existing duties, be responsible for collating the comments submitted on the Bill by members of the public.

Stop and Search: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* stop and account and *(b)* stop and searches were undertaken in the Metropolitan police force area in each of the last three years. [41513]

Nick Herbert: The information requested on *(a)* stop and account and *(b)* stop and searches from 2006-07 to 2008-09 (latest available) are provided in the following table:

Number of searches under stop and search powers and number of persons required to stop and account in the Metropolitan police force area, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	Number of stop and searches[1]	Number of stop and accounts[2]
2006-07	370,290	244,571
2007-08[3]	520,484	441,056
2008-09[3]	794,707	600,227

[1] Includes searches of persons or vehicles under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1984 and Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

[2] Stop and account is where an officer requests a person in a public place to account for himself/herself in relation to one or more of the following: his/her actions; his/her behaviour; his/her presence in an area; or his/her possessions. Figures published by the Ministry of Justice in the annual bulletin "Race and the Criminal Justice System".

[3] Figures for stop and accounts for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are the most recent published provisional data. As a result, the figures may differ from those published in earlier years.

Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre: Children

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have been detained in the family rooms at Tinsley house immigration removal centre (IRC) since 16 December 2010; and in how many incidences have such families not had access to supervisors who can help children to leave the IRC. [39728]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* Local management information indicates that two families with children have been accommodated at Tinsley house since 16 December 2010.

The two families were encountered at the border, seeking entry to the UK. In both cases neither family qualified for entry. With no suitable accommodation in the UK it was not considered in the best interests of the children either temporarily to admit them with no accommodation or separate them from their families. Detention ceased at the first appropriate opportunity the following day.

Our commitment to provide the opportunity for children to leave the centre does not apply to families in these circumstances. The commitment relates to families who are being removed from within the UK and being held in Tinsley during the period from January until the new pre-departure accommodation becomes operational.

No such cases have arisen to date.

Figures provided by the Family Returns Unit are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and are routinely accompanied by a caveat which states that they are provisional and may be subject to change. In this particular instance, however, we are certain that the figure given is absolutely correct.

The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis and management information on the number of children entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers, by month, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

War Crimes

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of war crimes suspects living in the UK. [42042]

Damian Green: It is the Government's policy that the UK should not be a refuge for war criminals or those who have committed crimes against humanity, including genocide.

Beyond the work of the UK Border Agency War Crimes Team, no official data are collated that would enable an assessment of the number of war crimes suspects in the UK. Between August 2005 and June 2010, the UK Border Agency War Crimes Team recommended that immigration action be taken against 495 suspected war criminals. Subsequent to these recommendations action was taken against 360 suspects, of which 19 were removed from the UK, 18 departed voluntarily and 75 were denied entry to the UK. Of the remaining 248 suspects, 139 were refused British citizenship and remain in country with indefinite leave to remain, 35 were refused asylum and granted discretionary leave pending removal and 74 were appealing their decision and/or awaiting further action against them.

Young Offenders

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that budgets for youth offending and crime prevention services are protected in the light of reductions in the levels of local authority budgets. [42026]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to tackling youth crime to ensure that young people are diverted from a life of crime. This is why ring-fenced funding worth more than £18 million over two years to tackle knife, gun, gang and other youth crime, was announced by the Government on 2 February 2011. The two year funding will be given to police, local agencies and the voluntary sector to tackle serious youth violence and prevent young people entering a cycle of crime. The ring-fenced funding will run between April 2011-12 and March 2012-13, when police and crime commissioners will be in place and will have responsibility for their own budgets.

In addition, the Home Office is also providing up to £20 million towards the Early Intervention Grant (via the Department for Education), over two years, and up to £18 million for youth offending teams (via the Ministry of Justice) to deliver frontline youth crime prevention work, including knife crime prevention programmes, for young offenders.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Green Belt

19. **Chris Skidmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to protect local green belts from inappropriate development. [42504]

Greg Clark: Local planning authorities must have regard to policy currently in planning policy guidance note 2, Green Belts when writing development plans or deciding planning proposals affecting green belt. PPG2 establishes a presumption against inappropriate development. The coalition agreement commits us to maintaining the green belt. Moreover, through the Localism Bill we are abolishing regional strategies and their 'top down' pressure to review green belt boundaries.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the provisions of planning policy guidance 2—Green Belts; and if he will make a statement. [41708]

Robert Neill: In December the Government invited people to suggest the policies and priorities which should shape the National Planning Policy Framework that is to replace all the Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes, including PPG2 (planning policy guidance note 2 Green Belts). That informal consultation is closing on 28 February 2011.

At this stage it is not possible to say how many respondents mention PPG2, or to what purpose. Full consultation on a draft text of the Framework will take place later this year.

In addition, the Department routinely receives letters which refer to PPG2. Some respondents find the policy unduly restrictive; others ask for explanation of the policy or for intervention when a proposal is made affecting green belt land locally. However, it is for local planning authorities to apply the policies in PPG2, and ensure green belt protection in line with it.

The coalition agreement commits the Government to maintaining green belt protection. Abolition of regional strategies through the Localism Bill will also help protect the green belt by removing top down directives to review or weaken green belt protection in over 30 towns across England.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the granting of planning permission under the very special circumstances provisions of planning policy guidance 2—Green Belts would be a material consideration in future applications for development on the same site; under what circumstances would such subsequent applications be determined other than on their own merits; whether he plans to revise the guidance; and if he will make a statement. [41709]

Robert Neill: The planning history of any application site may be a material factor in a planning case if decision-makers in the case consider it appropriate. It would be for the local planning authority to assess the relevance of an earlier permission on the same land, taking into account the reasons why that permission had been granted, but there is no automatic consequence. Each planning application must be determined on its own merits in light of current policies in the local development framework, and of all other material considerations such as planning policy guidance note 2 Green Belts if the land is green belt.

In December we announced the start of work to create a National Planning Policy Framework. As part of this, we will consider how best to update the policy currently set out in planning policy guidance note 2. A consultation draft of the Framework will be published later this year.

The coalition agreement commits the Government to maintaining green belt protection. Abolition of regional strategies through the Localism Bill will also help protect the green belt by removing top down directives to review or weaken green belt protection in over 30 towns across England.

Voluntary Sector

21. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the community and voluntary sector of reductions in levels of Government funding for local authorities. [42506]

Greg Clark: Spending decisions are a matter for local councils, but no council will see their spending power fall by more than 8.8% next year. Councils do face difficult decisions due to fiscal crisis that was not of their making—or ours.

The best councils are expanding the opportunities for the voluntary sector to help them make savings. The worst-run councils are targeting the sector for disproportionate cuts. We are requiring all councils to be transparent in the action they are taking.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

22. **Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce the number of non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible. [42507]

Mr Pickles: I have already closed four of my Department's arms length bodies and have put a programme of reform in place which will see another 12 either closed or transferred to the private or voluntary sector by 2012. These were set out in the Government's Public Bodies Review published on 14 October last year.

Procurement

23. **Rory Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to establish flexible local procurement processes. [42508]

Grant Shapps: The Government are working with the Local Government Group on their "Local Productivity" programme to identify opportunities for collaboration and to open up more opportunities to a diverse range of suppliers, including small and medium-sized enterprises and voluntary and community groups.

Local Authority Funding

24. **Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the likely change in the provision of services by local authorities as a result of reductions in levels of Government funding for local authorities. [42509]

Robert Neill: We have given councils much greater financial autonomy and flexibility to manage their budgets. If they share back office services, join forces to get better value from their buying power, cut out excessive chief executive pay and root out overspending and waste, then they can protect key front-line services.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his proposals for the 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme on the supply of *(a)* larger family accommodation comprising four bedrooms or more and *(b)* supported housing for the elderly and other vulnerable groups. [41718]

Andrew Stunell: The number and type of affordable rent homes delivered will be dependent on agreements between providers and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

We expect providers of affordable housing and local authorities to work closely to identify the type of provision that will most appropriately meet the locally identified needs.

The needs and aspirations of vulnerable and older people should be considered in the provision of general needs housing, as well as in specialist provision.

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme on *(a)* the supply of social-rented homes, *(b)* the supply of new affordable rented homes, *(c)* rent levels applicable to new lettings for (i) social-rented and (ii) new affordable homes and *(d)* expenditure in housing benefit payments. [41719]

Andrew Stunell: The Government aim to deliver up to 150,000 new affordable homes between 2011 to 2015 mainly through the Affordable Homes Programme. The number of social rented and affordable rent homes delivered will be dependent on agreements between providers and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

Existing social tenants will retain their current tenancy and rent arrangements. Rent levels for new lettings of social rented homes will also be set according to current arrangements. New homes for affordable rent will be made available at a rent level of up to 80% of market rents (inclusive of service charges).

The Affordable Rent Impact Assessment, to be published in due course, will provide an assessment of the likely impact on the Exchequer under different delivery scenarios. The Impact Assessment will include analysis of the impact on housing benefit of the new affordable rent product.

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the affordability for prospective tenants of the proposed affordable rented lettings under the 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme; what comparison he has made of the *(a)* rents paid and *(b)* average earnings of tenants; and what proportion of tenants under the proposed affordable rent lettings he expects to depend on housing benefit to pay all or part of their rent. [41731]

Andrew Stunell: Affordable rent is aimed at the same client group as for social rented housing, which is why the properties will fall within the allocations framework for social rent.

Local authorities and landlords have some scope for flexibility within that framework, as they do for social rented housing, which they may choose to exercise in relation to affordable rent properties. They may, for example, target it at households in work but on low incomes, and agree specific nomination arrangements for individual schemes, for example to achieve mixed income communities in a given area.

Tenants in affordable rent properties will benefit from a sub-market rent and, where necessary, support through housing benefit.

Audit Commission: Bank Services

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value was of the Audit Commission's lost deposits held in Icelandic banks; what the estimated monetary value is of the interest lost on those deposits; how much of those deposits have been returned to date; and what estimate the Commission has made of the proportion of the monetary value of the deposits that will be *(a)* returned and *(b)* written off. [42288]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 28 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive who is on leave.

The Audit Commission had deposits in Landsbanki Islands HF London and in Heritable Bank London when the banks failed in October 2008.

The Audit Commission is one of 123 public bodies in the UK with frozen deposits in Icelandic banks. The total amount deposited by those bodies at the time of the bank failures was approximately £945 million.

The table below sets out in detail the information requested.

	Heritable	*Landsbanki*
Monetary value of the deposits (£ million)	5.0	5.0
Deposit returned to date (£ million)	2.5	0
Estimated proportion of the deposit that will be returned[1] (percentage)	85	89
Proportion of the deposit written off on current analysis[2] (percentage)	15	11
Estimated monetary value of lost interest (£ million)	0.25	0.04

[1] The Heritable Bank recoverable amount is based on information from the administrators and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) guidance.
The Landsbanki recoverable amount is based on information from the Landsbanki winding up board, Commission legal and technical advice along with consideration of CIPFA LAAP guidance on priority status. The priority status of UK deposits by local authorities as well as the Commission is currently the subject of litigation in Iceland. The outcome of the litigation could affect the recoverable amount.

2. The value of lost interest for Heritable is calculated as the total interest of £323,000 originally expected on the £5 million deposit less the expected interest return of £74,000.
The value of lost interest for Landsbanki is calculated as the total interest of £272,000 originally expected on the £5 million deposit less the expected interest return of £232,000. The impact is lower for Landsbanki as the investment was due to mature just after the claim date.

Landsbanki values are subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations, as the debt has been crystallised in Icelandic Kroner.

Audit Commission: Consultants

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Audit Commission has made to the Community Business Consultancy to date; what the hourly or daily rate was for services provided in each such case; and what the purpose was of each such payment. [42289]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 28 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive on leave.

The Audit Commission has made payments to Community Business Consultancy from 2000/2001 to date as detailed in the table below:

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2000-01	3,328.56
2001-02	22,356.04
2002–04[1]	16,703.08
2004-05	10,929.10
2005-06	0
2006-07	10,158.80
2007-08	9,725.50
2008-09	0
2009-10	0
2010-11	1,261.70

[1] 17 month financial year.

The payments were for peer councillor input into the nationally agreed programmes of council corporate assessments as part of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), as well as input into corporate governance inspections between 2001 and 2008. Input by elected members was a key component of the process to ensure all judgements took full account of peer / practitioner experience.

The 2010/11 payment relates to work undertaken in March for peer input into Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) judgements that were being formulated for 2010. This followed an agreement with the Local Government Association after the independent evaluation of the first year of CAA judgements that the second year assessments should include a greater level of peer input.

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Peer Clearing House sourced and accredited councillor and senior officer peers. The inclusion of peers on inspection teams gained strong support from the local government sector as evidenced in evaluations of CPA and consultations on new inspection approaches.

The agreed standard national daily rate varied from £200 per day to £300 per day depending on the type of work. The daily rate in 2010/11 was £300. Travel costs were paid in addition.

Audit Commission: Pay

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of the *(a)* basic pay, *(b)* bonus, *(c)* pension contribution, *(d)* hotel costs in London, *(e)* travel expenses, *(f)* hospitality expenses and *(g)* other benefits in kind for the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission (i) was in 2010-11 and (ii) is estimated to be in 2011-12. [42287]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 February 2011:

Your parliamentary question has been passed to me for reply. The figures you requested are:

2010/11

	£
(a) Basic pay	[1]165,004
(b) Bonus	[2]—
(c) Pension contributions	43,704

2010/11	£
(d) Hotel costs in London	[3]18,055,36
(e) Travel expenses	[4]812.15

[1] See paragraph below.

[2] The Audit Commission does not have a bonus scheme.

[3] Staying in London on average three nights per week to the end of January 2011.

[4] April 2010 to February 2011.

2011/12	£
(a) Basic pay	[1]164,112
(b) Bonus	[2]—
(c) Pension contributions	44,596

[1] See paragraph below.

[2] The Audit Commission does not have a bonus scheme.

On *(a)*, for both years, staff contribute to the Audit Commission Pension Scheme through a salary sacrifice scheme called SMART pensions. This means that basic salaries are reduced in lieu of an increased employer contribution to the Pension Scheme.

For 2010/11, the Chief Executive's salary was reduced by £13,379. For 2011/12, we estimate the reduction will be £14,271. These amounts are included in the pension contribution figures, but have been removed from the basic salary figures.

There has been no hospitality expenditure for 2010/11 and there is expected to be none for 2011/12. We expect travel expenses for 2011/12 to stay roughly the same, (any increases being because of increased fares, not more travel), but hotel costs to decrease, based on an average of two, not three, nights in London.

When Steve Bundred, the previous Chief Executive, left the Commission on 31 March 2010, Eugene Sullivan, who had been the Managing Director for Finance and Corporate Services, became the Interim Chief Executive. On the announcement of the Commission's abolition, he became the permanent Chief Executive. He receives an additional responsibility allowance for this of £18,000 per annum and a transport allowance of £4,070 per annum. There are no other benefits in kind. The Commission also buys a standard class return ticket each week for travel from his home to London.

Citizenship Survey

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to commission the next Citizenship Survey. [42118]

Andrew Stunell: As my Department has previously announced, there are no plans to commission further years of the Citizenship Survey. This is because:

The survey costs £4 million per survey year. This is unsustainable given the planned reductions to the Department's administrative budgets, in turn which stem from the need to pay off the last Government's budget deficit. The planned savings to the Department's own budget are greater than those being asked of local government.

Priority data can be collected less frequently or via other means, as part of a broader reconfiguration of the Department's research budgets. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial Statement of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on the broader need to ensure far better value for money for the research budget of the department.

In setting priorities, support for voluntary sector funding is more valuable than payments to large opinion poll companies like Ipsos-MORI and TNS-BMRB for undertaking large scale surveys of attitudes and behaviour. I also refer the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 10 August 2010, a copy of which is already in the Library, on the decision to cancel the equally expensive £4 million a year Place Survey.

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 207-8W, on community development, what funds his Department has allocated to the promotion of best practice and shared learning in developing social capital. [40163]

Greg Clark: The Office for Civil Society is developing programmes to support social action within communities by building the links and networks that foster social capital. The Government are piloting a National Citizen Service for 11,000 16-year-olds in summer 2011. The National Citizen Service will bring together young people from different backgrounds, giving them the opportunity to plan and deliver projects that will benefit their local communities and fostering lasting bonds between participants.

The Government will also train 5,000 community organisers over the lifetime of this Parliament. The programme is about catalysing community action at a neighbourhood level and community organisers will be well-trained and committed individuals who will work closely with communities to identify local leaders, projects and opportunities for the community.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 207-8W, on community development, whether his Department has sponsored any *(a)* meetings, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars on the promotion of best practice and shared learning in developing social capital within communities. [40334]

Greg Clark: The Department has not sponsored events which focus specifically on developing social capital.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase (Mr Burley) of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 743W, on departmental overseas visits, what meetings took place during the visits of the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) to *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Saudi Arabia; what individuals and groups he met; and if the meetings included engagement with those known to be associated with non-violent extremists. [40913]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* During his visits to Pakistan, in April 2009, and Saudi Arabia, in May 2009 the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) held the following meetings:

Pakistan

Meetings with members of the Pakistani Government, including Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Meeting with Pakistani community groups (including a women's group and Muslim Hands).

A meeting with Javed Miandad, President of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Meeting with the Mayor of Karachi.

Meetings with a number of religious leaders.

A meeting with British high commission staff.

Mr Khan also gave a speech at the University of Islamabad, alongside British-Pakistani local councillors and academics.

Saudi Arabia

Meetings with members of the Saudi Arabian Government, including with Dr Abdullah Al Luhaidan, Deputy Minister of Islamic Affairs.

A meeting with Shaykh Aazeb al Misbel, President of the Committee on Islam and Human Rights.

Meetings with representatives of Saudi universities.

Meetings with representatives of the Saudi Arabian print and broadcast media.

A meeting with the Muslim World League.

Meetings with Mosque authorities.

The Department for Communities and Local Government also published press releases on both of these visits on its website:

Pakistan:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100513032259/http://communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1197398

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100513032259/http://communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1199316

Saudi Arabia:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100410180038/http://communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1235071

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100513032259/http://communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1236155

All meetings held by the right hon. Member for Tooting during these two visits were official Government visits, arranged in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the furtherance of the previous administration's Preventing Extremism agenda. None of the meetings included engagement with those known to be associated with non-violent extremists.

From October 2009, DCLG has published details of all meetings held by Ministers with external contacts on its website.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36179]

Robert Neill: Records held by the Department's procurement team show a total of 18 single tender contracts awarded since 12 May 2010. Of these, the following were above the EU public procurement threshold:

Contract	*Company*	*Value (£)*
Mobile data terminal and station end equipment service support to the Fire and Rescue Service	Infoterra/ Multitone	188,620
Web hosting	Verizon	610,000
Interim Manager	Capita	235,000
Commercial Director for FireControl project	Alpine	120,000

Departmental Research

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on research and policy reports commissioned before May 2010 and which have not published. [41222]

Robert Neill: The last Administration has spent £25.6 million on research projects that were commissioned but not published before May 2010. As at 14 February 2011, the Department has published reports relating to research projects totalling £6.1 million. We plan to publish the remaining reports relating to research projects totalling £19.5 million over the next few months.

As Ministers have outlined in the written statements of 1 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 39WS, and 9 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 10WS, the new Government intend to ensure their research delivers best possible value for money for the taxpayer and that sums expended are reasonable in relation to the public policy benefits obtained. DCLG has put in place scrutiny and challenge processes for future research. All new projects will be scrutinised to ensure the methodology is sound and that all options for funding are explored at an early stage. This includes using existing work from other organisations, joint funding projects with other Departments or organisations and taking work forward in-house.

Fire Services: Procurement

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency plans are in place for private companies that enter administration whilst under contract to lease fire engines to *(a)* the London Fire Brigade and *(b)* fire brigades in England; and if he will make a statement. [41860]

Robert Neill: Fire and rescue authorities are responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to enable them to continue to fulfil their statutory duties. This responsibility holds even in the event that private companies enter administration while under contract to lease fire engines.

Gardens: Property Development

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals against refusals of consent for construction developments in gardens were allowed in the last 12 months for which figures are available; in how many such cases the Planning Inspectorate has awarded costs against the local authority; whether he has provided guidance to the Planning Inspectorate on its handling of appeals against refusals of consent for developments in gardens; and if he will make a statement. [37480]

Greg Clark: My statement of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 9WS, announced that private residential gardens would no longer be included in the definition of previously-developed land and the national indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare had been removed. Planning inspectors undertaking housing casework involving proposed garden land development have been made fully aware of the revised policy context:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1610193

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/lettergardengrabbing

The effect of these very positive changes is to strengthen councils' powers in dealing with applications to develop garden land in built up areas, by removing it from the "brownfield" (or previously developed) land category on which national planning policy sets a target for at least 60% of new housing to be provided on such land every year, and removing the minimum density requirement which previously applied to such proposals. Each planning application and appeal will need to be considered on its individual merits, such as how a proposed development fits into the character and appearance of the locality.

Of a total of 932 appeals involving development in back gardens determined from the date of my statement on 9 June 2010 up to the end of December 2010, 201 appeals were allowed. This equates to an allowed rate of 22%. By comparison, for the same period 31% of planning appeals as a whole were allowed.

Of the 201 allowed appeals, records show that, to date, an award of costs against the local authority was made in 35 cases.

These figures do not take into account the number of planning applications for inappropriate garden development which are refused by the local authority but not appealed; nor do these figures quantify the number of potential planning applications for inappropriate development which have been discouraged as a result of the new guidance.

Housing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* homes and *(b)* households. [41693]

Andrew Stunell: There were an estimated 22.7 million homes in England in March 2010.

The most recent estimate currently available for the number of households is for 2009-10, based on data from the English Housing Survey: there were an estimated 21.6 million households in England in 2009-10.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to ensure that Housing Revenue Account receipts are ring-fenced following the introduction of self-financing. [42560]

Grant Shapps: The rules governing the use by local authorities of housing receipts are to remain substantially unchanged after the introduction of self-financing in April 2012: 25% of receipts arising from Right to Buy (and similar) sales may be invested by local authorities in any capital project; receipts from all other Housing Revenue Account sales (including vacant land) may be used for affordable housing or regeneration projects, or used to pay off associated debt.

Last year, the Department consulted on reforms to the Housing Revenue Account, and the paper discussed the proposal that local authorities should also retain the remaining 75% of housing receipts provided they were used for affordable housing or regeneration projects. 37 authorities are recorded as supporting it. As part of the spending review, it was decided that this option would not be pursued at this time. Instead we have added new compensation in the self-financing valuation to cover the loss of income from those homes. This has reduced the amount of debt councils will take on under self-financing by £862 million, which compares with total pooled receipts last year of £133 million.

No decision has been made on whether to change the proportion of housing receipts local authorities may retain after 2015.

Local Government Finance: Milton Keynes

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much financial support was given to Milton Keynes council by the Government in each year since 1996-97. [42439]

Robert Neill: The total amount of financial support given to Milton Keynes council since 1996-97 by central Government to finance their revenue and capital expenditure is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Central Government grants[1] for funding revenue expenditure*	*Capital expenditure funded by central Government grants[2]*
1996-97[3]	14.7	0.5
1997-98	118.9	0.9
1998-99	125.3	1.0
1999-2000	135.7	1.8
2000-01	144.2	0.4
2001-02	160.9	1.3
2002-03	161.8	2.9
2003-04	187.2	4.6
2004-05	198.2	7.4
2005-06	224.0	8.4
2006-07	239.8	12.1
2007-08	259.7	56.0
2008-09	279.7	44.4
2009-10	290.2	34.5
2010-11[4]	301.9	36.8

[1] Central Government grants includes Area Based Grant, Specific Grants inside Aggregate External Finance, Revenue Support Grant and Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates.

[2] Capital figures relate to the period when the expenditure took place, rather than the period when the grant was received.

[3] Prior to 1997-98 Milton Keynes was part of the two-tier structure, with some of its services such as education and social care financed and managed by Buckinghamshire county council. From 1997-98 Milton Keynes became a unitary authority, taking over all responsibilities that were previously managed and financed by Buckinghamshire.

[4] These figures are budget estimates of the position in the 2010-11 financial year.

Source:

Department for Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO), Revenue Accounts (RA) Budget, Capital Outturn (COR) and Capital Estimates (CER) forms.

Local Government Finance: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of proceeds from sales, fees and charges received by Peterborough City Council in 2009-10 was; what such receipts constituted as a proportion of total service expenditure; what his estimate is of the equivalent figures for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [41699]

Robert Neill: In the financial year 2009-10, the total amount of income from sales, fees and charges received by Peterborough city council was £23.4 million. This represents 5.8% of their gross total service expenditure of £404 million.

No estimate for sales, fees and charges or total service expenditure has yet been made for the financial year 2011-12.

The Government do not expect councils to address their financial challenges in 2011-12 simply by increasing fees and charges. We have given councils much greater financial autonomy and flexibility to manage their budgets. If they share back office services, join forces to get better value from their buying power, cut out excessive chief executive pay and root out overspending and waste, then they can protect key frontline services.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his estimate is of the monetary value of financial reserves held by Peterborough City Council in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [41700]

Robert Neill: The budgeted figures for 2010-11 financial reserves levels for Peterborough city council are in the following table:

At 31 March 2011

	£ million
Schools reserves	3.238
Non-schools reserves	
Other earmarked	6.537
Unallocated	3.827
Non-schools total	10.364

Source:
Department for Communities and Local Government Revenue Account (RA) budget returns for 2010-11

Schools reserves are defined as those balances made under section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and are used for the purpose of schools.

Non-schools reserves are defined as the sums held to finance future spending for purposes falling outside the definition of a provision. Reserves held for stated purposes are known as earmarked reserves. The remainder are unallocated reserves.

Local Government: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of the planned increase in employees contributions in the local government pension scheme in the local authority grant settlement for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [42265]

Robert Neill: No account of future increases in employment contributions was taken in the local government finance settlement for 2011-12.

Local Government: Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people who volunteered and *(b)* hours given by volunteers in local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [41973]

Greg Clark: We do not hold centrally any data sources to establish volunteering rates at local authority level and so this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Identity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism his Department has put in place to measure perceptions of British values and identity. [42113]

Andrew Stunell: The Department is working with the Home Office and others to develop the Government's Integration Strategy. This will include consideration of the characteristics of a well integrated society and of the perceptions of British values and identifies.

Nature Conservation

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities who wish to revoke the conservation area status granted to particular areas. [42549]

Robert Neill: Local planning authorities have powers under section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to designate conservation areas and to vary or cancel any such designation, subject to giving notice to the Secretary of State and English Heritage.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance his Department plans to provide to small businesses to assist them with payment of their business rates. [41697]

Robert Neill: We have already doubled small business rate relief for one year. In the Localism Bill, we are also taking powers to simplify the process for claiming this relief, stop unfair, retrospective business rates being imposed on local firms, and allow local authorities to respond to local circumstances by reducing business rates bills.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of his decision to remove guidance to local authorities on the setting of parking charges to encourage the use of alternative forms of transport on *(a)* congestion, *(b)* pollution arising from traffic and *(c)* the use of alternative forms of transport. [42150]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government's changes to parking planning rules have:

(a) removed Whitehall restrictions which imposed maximum numbers of parking spaces in new residential developments;

(b) changed a policy which inhibited competition between council areas to one that said parking charges should not undermine the vitality of town centres;

(c) introduced a policy that parking enforcement should be proportionate;

(d) removed the policy that encouraged councils to set car parking charges to discourage the use of cars; and

(e) signalled support for increased electric car infrastructure.

This Government's assessment is that there would be little impact to *(a)* congestion, *(b)* pollution arising from traffic and *(c)* the use of alternative forms or transport. This is because the choice of transport mode is affected by more than just parking policies. The promotion of electric cars will reduce pollution.

The last Government's parking rules have led to more parking problems on local roads, clogging up residential roads with parked cars and making drivers cruise the streets hunting for a precious parking space. Parking problems on new developments can cause knock-on effects to surrounding neighbourhoods. Such spill-over creates street congestion that can cause blind spots for pedestrians, hinder emergency vehicles and lead to 'fly parking'. In this context, the new Government's more sensible parking policies will reduce the scope for congestion.

Schools: Planning

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects on road safety of removing the requirement for school travel plans from planning regulations for free schools as proposed in his Department's consultation on planning for schools development. [42913]

Robert Neill: The consultation on planning for schools development invited views on the possible transport impacts of the proposals. We are considering the responses received.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social rented tenancies were available for reletting as social rented tenancies in each year since 2005; and what his Department's estimate is of the supply of such relets in each year from 2011 to 2015. [41730]

Grant Shapps: The number of new social rent general needs lettings of existing properties previously let by local authorities and housing associations that have become vacant relets, are given in the following table:

	Number of housing association relets	*Number of local authority relets*	*Total relets*
2005-06	107,700	—	—
2006-07	109,800	—	—
2007-08	106,600	118,800	225,400
2008-09	114,800	118,100	232,900
2009-10	113,300	123,900	237,200

Source:
CORE lettings returns (weighted)

Information is available for general needs lettings only.

Figures are only available for local authority lettings on a comparable basis from 2007-08.

The Department does not produce forecasts of numbers of relets of local authority and housing association properties in future years.

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average weekly rent was in each region for new lettings of *(a)* council tenancies and *(b)* housing association assured tenancies in each year since 2001; and what his estimate is of the likely rent level for such lettings in each region in each year from 2011 to 2015. [41732]

Grant Shapps: Reliable information on local authority lettings is not available.

The following table gives the average weekly rent in each region for new lettings of housing association assured tenancies in each year since 2001-02:

Average weekly rent of new housing association lettings, assured tenancies, by region, 2001-02 to 2009-10

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
North East	43.55	49.49	56.12	53.78	55.79	57.74	59.78	63.52	65.78
Yorkshire and the Humber	46.71	53.39	53.25	53.76	55.08	56.98	59.36	63.35	66.88
East Midlands	46.64	53.05	54.69	56.26	58.87	60.58	63.58	66.77	69.55
East of England	42.23	56.25	60.39	62.61	64.68	67.11	69.70	73.85	79.08
London	63.11	68.00	71.37	74.60	74.15	81.31	85.33	91.26	97.70
South East	58.08	65.45	66.83	67.98	70.28	73.20	76.08	80.61	85.41
South West	53.01	58.88	59.57	60.31	62.33	64.63	67.55	71.27	76.10
West Midlands	50.68	54.27	55.48	57.23	59.58	61.02	64.05	68.44	71.42
North West	48.15	52.53	53.23	54.94	56.52	58.88	61.42	64.94	68.74

Notes:
1. Figures relate to basic rents only and exclude additional charges
2. Figures include general needs and supported housing lettings
Source:
CORE lettings returns

From 2011, affordable rent homes will be made available at a rent level of up to 80% of the market rent (inclusive of service charges) and will rise at retail price index + 0.5% for the duration of the tenancy. Existing social tenants will retain their current tenancy and rent arrangements. Social rent increases remain subject to the rent restructuring formula with rents increasing by the retail price index + 0.5% limit.

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's estimate is of the average weekly rent for a *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more bedroom property for (i) secure local authority tenancies, (ii) assured housing association tenancies and (iii) using 80 per cent. of open market rent levels in each local authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [41733]

Grant Shapps: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 817W, given to the hon. Member for Westminster North (Ms Buck) which gives local authority level information on local authority and registered social landlord average (mean) weekly rents by bedroom size.

I also refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 437W, given to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Moor View (Alison Seabeck), on median weekly rents. Updated figures are available on the Valuation Office Agency's website. I would draw to the right hon. Member's attention my comments on the risk of making potentially misleading assumptions about this data. Data is not held at local authority level.

Supermarkets: Planning Permission

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects of successful planning approvals for large out-of-town shopping centres on small businesses. [41696]

Robert Neill: Planning decisions are rightly the responsibility of local planning authorities, taking into account national planning policy.

Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth" sets out current national planning policy on economic development, including retail development. PPS4 asks local planning authorities to assess the impact of new unplanned out-of-town retail development on the vitality and viability of centres in the catchment area of the proposal. PPS4 gives local authorities powers to refuse planning permission where there is clear evidence that the proposal is likely to lead to significant adverse impacts.

We are committed to reforming the planning system and returning power to local communities to shape the development in their areas. To this end, we announced on 21 December 2010 that we will publish and present to Parliament a simple and streamlined National Planning Policy Framework covering all forms of development, including retail development, by April 2012. We are currently inviting individuals and organisations to submit their suggestions to the Department on what priorities and policies we might set out in the framework.

Supporting People Programme

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes were made to the allocation of the Supporting People Grant to local authorities between 2009-10 and 2010-11. [42899]

Grant Shapps: In 2009-10 the Supporting People Programme Grant was paid to the 152 "top-tier" local authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, as an un-ring-fenced named grant. The national budget in that year was £1.666 billion.

In addition, those local authorities also received a separate Supporting People Administration Grant, which was paid as a contribution towards the cost of administering the Supporting People programme. The national budget was £3.5 million.

In 2010-11 the Supporting People Programme Grant has been paid as part of the Area Based Grant and the national budget is £1.636 billion. The £30 million Supporting People Administration Grant for 2010-11 was removed as part of the savings set out in the Secretary of State's written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 15-17WS.

Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of presumption in sustainable development his Department uses. [41853]

Greg Clark: Planning Policy Statement 1: 'Delivering Sustainable Development' contains national policy on the sustainable development principles to be pursued through the planning system.

Vacant Land

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of reinstating the sequential approach to planning in order to protect greenfield sites. [42032]

Robert Neill: The sequential approach set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 3, published in 2000, put a strong emphasis on the allocation and use of brownfield sites before any other land. However, it also recognised that in some circumstances such sites may not be ready for development, and so the policy set out criteria against which other housing sites should be considered. It did not rule out the use of greenfield sites. The current policy, in Planning Policy Statement 3, published in 2006, whilst not retaining the sequential approach, continues to prioritise previously developed land for development.

We have announced our intention to streamline all national planning policy, including housing policy, into one document—the National Planning Policy Framework—to ensure it is fit for purpose. My Department has invited individuals and organisations to put forward their ideas on the priorities and policies we might adopt to produce a shorter, more decentralised and less bureaucratic national policy.

HEALTH

Ambulances: Testing

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of ambulances which failed MOT tests in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [42545]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect centrally information on the number of ambulances that have failed MOTs.

It is for national health service ambulance services locally to ensure that all their operational vehicles adhere to safe road usage conditions and legislation, which would include the compulsory MOT test of motor vehicles.

Blood Diseases: Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the ability of people diagnosed with *(a)* sickle cell anaemia and *(b)* thalassaemia to access the welfare system, including cold weather payments and free prescriptions; if he will assess the merits of increasing the assistance available to such people to access the welfare system; and if he will make a statement. [34880]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Department is clear that the most vulnerable, including those with health conditions and disabilities, should be protected. Benefit entitlement is not based on an individual's diagnosis or the nature of their particular disabling condition, but whether a person meets the entitlement conditions set down in the legislation.

From October 2008 the current range of incapacity benefits (incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and income support where paid on the grounds of incapacity/disability), was replaced for new claimants with the employment and support allowance (ESA). The approach is based on the principle that a health condition or disability should not automatically be regarded as a barrier to work. We know that people with the same diagnosis can have very different effects in terms of their ability to work; therefore entitlement to ESA is based on the functional effects of an individual's condition rather than the condition itself.

Jobcentre Plus offers support, including assistance in making benefit claims, to customers across all working age benefits before they are referred to the Work programme. From 4 April, the support that Jobcentre Plus delivers to customers will be more flexible. Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers will be able to judge which interventions will help individual customers most cost effectively whilst meeting local need.

Additionally in October 2010 we launched Work Choice, a new pan-disability supported employment programme for disabled people. Accessed primarily through Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Advisers, Work Choice provides an improved customer experience through tailored support. It targets those customers who face the most complex barriers in reaching or retaining employment, including self-employment.

Cold weather payments are targeted at those most vulnerable to the cold: older people in receipt of pension credit, disabled adults and children and families with children under five who are in receipt of an income-related benefit. These are individuals who spend more time indoors and often have restricted mobility because of age or disability. We do not record the type of illness or disability a disabled adult or child has for the purposes of cold weather payments.

As part of the spending review the cold weather payment was permanently increased from £8.50 a week to £25 a week. During the recent extreme cold spell over 17 million cold weather payments were made at an estimated cost of £428 million.

The extensive exemption arrangements we have in England currently mean that around 90% of all prescription items (in 2009) are already dispensed free of charge and around 60% of the English population do not pay prescription charges due to:

age (under 16 or 60 or over)

receipt of a qualifying income-related benefit (e.g. income support)

qualifying under the NHS Low Income Scheme (provides help with health costs, including free prescriptions, based on a means tested assessment. The NHS Low Income Scheme is available to anyone who has capital below the specified limits).

having a specified medical condition, and holding a medical exemption certificate (the list of specified medical conditions is very limited. It does not include sickle cell anaemia or thalassaemia).

The current prescription charge is £7.20. Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPCs) offer savings to those who must pay for their prescriptions and need them frequently. A three-monthly prescription pre-payment certificate (PPC) is £28.25. A 12-month PPC is £104.00 and saves money if more than 14 items are needed in 12 months. PPCs can be purchased by 10 monthly direct debit instalment payments. PPCs allow anyone to obtain all the prescriptions they need for £2 per week.

When taking PPCs into consideration, 94% of all prescription items dispensed are not charged for at the point of dispensing.

Blood: CJD

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to bring into use the blood test for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease developed by the Medical Research Council Prion Unit at University College London; [41556]

(2) if he will put in place a timetable to bring into use the blood test for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease developed by the Medical Research Council Prion Unit at University College London. [41557]

Anne Milton: The potential for future use of the prototype diagnostic blood test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) described in the paper published in *The Lancet* on 3 February 2011 for blood screening purposes will be considered by the United Kingdom Blood Services Prion Working Group (PWG). Professor John Collinge and colleagues from the Medical Research Council Prion Unit met with members of the PWG on 14 February 2011 and discussed the test. It was agreed that the assay would require further development to make it suitable for large throughput blood donor screening. An important next step is to establish how specific the assay is, and blood samples from non-UK sources are being organised to facilitate this assessment.

Consideration of the potential use of the test for diagnostic purposes, as described in the paper, is ongoing.

There is no fixed timetable to bring the blood test into use as it is dependent on the outcomes of further test development and evaluation by the research team.

Cancer Drugs Fund

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which non-drug technologies will be recognised in the Cancer Drugs Fund. [41569]

Paul Burstow: We have consulted on our plans for the design of the Cancer Drugs Fund and our consultation closed on 19 January.

The consultation made clear that the fund is to be focused on access to cancer drugs. The consultation asked for views on whether the national health service should have some flexibility in application of the Fund to cover the funding of other treatments that may not be considered conventional drugs, for example radiopharmaceuticals for cancer.

Decisions on the implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund will be taken once the responses to the consultation have been fully considered.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each strategic health authority area have applied for funds from the interim Cancer Drugs Fund *(a)* in total and *(b)* for selective internal radiation therapy; and how many applicants have been (i) granted and (ii) denied funding. [41571]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 10 January 2011, the most recent date for which figures are available, strategic health authorities (SHAs) had received around 1,000 applications for funding under the arrangements for the additional £50 million made available to the national health service for additional cancer drugs on an interim basis in this financial year. Of these, applications for over 750 patients had been agreed with most of the remaining applications under consideration.

We do not hold a breakdown of these applications by SHA, or the number of applications made for funding of selective internal radiation therapy.

Cancer: Drugs

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has received any evidence that the cancer drugs fund has been used to fund anything other than cancer drugs; and if he will make a statement. [42069]

Paul Burstow: We are not aware of the interim cancer drugs funding for this financial year being used to fund anything other than cancer drugs, including radiopharmaceuticals.

Arrangements for the cancer drugs fund that will operate from April 2011 will be set out shortly.

Care Homes: Standards

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of care homes in each region which do not meet the national minimum standards of care. [41424]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England and is responsible for assuring that providers of health and adult social care meet essential levels of safety and quality. Until 30 September 2010, CQC inspected and regulated care homes according to the Care Homes Regulations 2001 and associated national minimum standards (NMS).

The care homes regulations and NMS were revoked when the new registration system for private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers, under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, came into effect on 1 October 2010.

Under the new registration system, all providers of regulated activities must be registered with CQC and meet on an ongoing basis a set of registration requirements that set out essential levels of safety and quality.

Carers

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the effectiveness of the coordination of the systems which carers use to look after the finances and wellbeing of the disabled people they care for in order to establish the feasibility of introducing a simplified single system. [41728]

Paul Burstow: The feasibility of introducing a simplified single system which carers use to look after the finances and wellbeing of the disabled people they care for, is under consideration by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) through their Right to Control pilot scheme.

Enshrined in the Welfare Reform Act 2009, Right to Control aims to provide disabled people, entitled to eligible services, with greater choice and control over how public money is spent to meet their individual needs and ambitions.

Since December 2010, the pilot scheme is being tested in five trailblazing local authority areas, with two more sites to come on stream in the spring. During the trail blazers, disabled people accessing the Right to Control will be informed how much money they are eligible to receive for their support. They will be able to choose, in consultation with the public authority delivering a particular funding stream, how that money will be used to meet agreed outcomes.

The pilots are due to run until December 2012. They will be fully evaluated with a view to making a decision on whether and how the Right to Control should be rolled out nationally. A final report is expected in the spring of 2013.

Blood: CJD

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the RelyOn prion inactivator has been tested and cleared for use as an adjunct to disinfection; whether his Department has recommended RelyOn use in sterilisation units; and if he will make a statement. [42681]

Mr Simon Burns: Representations on technologies to improve hospital infection control and reduce hospital acquired infections such as the RelyOn prion inactivator product are submitted to the Department's Rapid Review Panel (RRP) for consideration.

The product was first submitted to the RRP in 2007 and in 2008, based on initial detailed RRP feedback, the product was re-submitted where it was awarded a Recommendation 2, indicating the product had potential, but that more work was needed.

In April 2010 the product manufacturer accepted an offer from the RRP to work with an infection control specialist to provide advice on improving the manufacturer's submission so that the product might potentially achieve an RRP Recommendation 1, which would enable the product to be considered for use in the national health service.

This work concluded with a report establishing the gaps within the company's RRP application, together with advice on improving the application, in September 2010. It is now for the manufacturer to address the issues raised in the report and consider whether they wish to resubmit the product to the RRP for further consideration. No such further application has been received to date.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which official committees are to advise the Government directly or indirectly on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease following the dissolution of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee; and what the membership is of each. [42682]

Anne Milton: Following the dissolution of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, its role in providing risk assessment advice on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (including variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease) will pass to the existing Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP).

An appointments exercise is currently in progress to appoint additional ACDP members with transmissible spongiform encephalopathies expertise. The current ACDP membership is as follows:

Professor George E. Griffin
Dr Judith Hilton
Professor Colin Howard
Professor William Irving
Ms Karen Jones
Mr John Keddie
Professor Dominic Mellor
Dr Philip Minor
Professor Armine Sefton
Mr Gordon Sutehall
Professor the hon. Richard Tedder.

Clinical Physiologists: Regulation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect which the statutory regulation of clinical physiologists would have on safe and effective practice. [42031]

Anne Milton: The Command Paper "Enabling Excellence" laid before Parliament on 16 February 2011 sets out the Government's overall strategy for the regulation of health care workers in the United Kingdom and social workers and social care workers in England. It makes clear that the extension of statutory regulation to currently unregulated professional or occupational groups, such as the health care science workforce, will only be considered where there is a compelling case on the basis of a public safety risk and where assured voluntary registers are not considered sufficient to manage this risk.

A robust evidence-based cost-benefit risk analysis will be undertaken to inform the appropriate model of regulation for the health care science workforce, including clinical physiologists which will take into account safe and effective practice and public protection.

Diabetes: Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in the Brighton and Hove primary care trust use an insulin pump. [42004]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect information on the uptake of insulin pumps at a local level. However, NHS Diabetes and the NHS Information Centre for health and social care recently published the findings of an audit to assess the provision of insulin pump services across England. The insulin pump audit is available via the National Diabetes Information Service.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Brighton and Hove primary care trust area have been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. [42005]

Paul Burstow: Data on numbers of people diagnosed with diabetes is collected as part of the National Diabetes Audit (NDA).

Participation in the NDA is not mandatory and Brighton and Hove Primary Care Trust (PCT) area had only partial participation in the 2008-09 NDA, which is the last year for which figures are available. The NDA collated data on 6,658 persons with diabetes in Brighton and Hove PCT. Of these, 911 had Type 1 diabetes. It is estimated that there are approximately 13,000 people with diabetes in Brighton and Hove PCT. This estimate uses the PBS Diabetes Population Prevalence Model Phase 3 (PBS3 model), developed by the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory.

Dichloromethane

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities attributed to the use of products containing dichloromethane in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [40218]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Dichloromethane is a widely-used solvent, which can have narcotic effects at high concentrations.

A research report prepared for the European Commission identified 18 deaths and 56 non-fatal injuries relating to use of paint strippers containing this solvent across Europe between 1989 and 2007. These included, in the UK, one incident in 1999 which resulted in two deaths in a paint stripping facility, a death in 2002 involving a professional decorator and another fatality in 2006 of a self-employed furniture restorer. In the latter two incidents an additional 16 people were hospitalised.

Separate Health and Safety Executive statistics show five non-fatal injuries to employees and two non-fatal injuries to members of the public reported between 2001-02 and 2009-10.

Donors: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of *(a)* blood and *(b)* organ donors registered in the London Borough of Bexley. [41401]

Anne Milton: The available information is as follows:

Within Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, there are 1,912[1] individual blood donors, who made a donation in 2010, and 22,596[2] people who are registered on the organ donor register.

[1] Individual donors are recorded as those that donated blood at least once in the 12-month period.

[2] As at 16 February 2011.

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 612W, on NHS rehabilitation, what the equivalent figures are for *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 1999-2000. [42268]

Anne Milton: Data in the form requested are not available prior to 2008-09.

The total number of people receiving drug treatment was estimated to be 118,500 in 2000-01. National Drug Treatment Monitoring System figures show the numbers in treatment in 2004-05 to be 160,453 and 206,889 in 2009-10.

Drugs: Safety

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on the use of unlicensed medicines that do not demonstrate any additional clinical benefits for patients in a disease area where a licensed medicine exists and has been approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [41678]

(2) what procedures are in place to ensure the safety of medicines provided on the NHS; [41789]

(3) what medicine safety requirements apply to pharmaceutical companies seeking to secure a licence for a medicine. [41990]

Mr Simon Burns: Unlicensed medicines are used within a professional and medicines legislative framework. Unlike licensed medicines, unlicensed medicines are not required to be assessed for safety, quality and efficacy. Therefore, for public health reasons their supply is limited by law to where there is a special need of an individual patient. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) interprets special need to be the clinical need of the individual patient that cannot be met by an available equivalent licensed product; cost and convenience are not considerations. Current General Medical Council ethical guidance on the use of unlicensed medicines states a doctor should always consider using a licensed medicinal product in the first instance. Such decisions need to be made in discussion with the patient concerned. Most, if not all, national health service trusts have established policies controlling the use of unlicensed medicines as it is considered that prescriber liability is significantly increased in such situations.

Medicinal products are regulated by a system of licensing defined in European Union legislation. Before approval of a licence, new medicines are required to demonstrate acceptable standards of safety, quality and efficacy such that the benefit/risk consideration for use of the product in the claimed indication is positive. The MHRA acts on behalf of the UK Licensing Authority to approve new national marketing authorisations in the United Kingdom.

Prior to licensing, new medicines undergo clinical trials to determine their efficacy and safety profile. These trials are in a carefully controlled sample of the intended treatment population. Because there is a gap between what is known at the time of licensing from clinical trials and what will happen in the 'real world' once larger numbers of patients in the target population start using the medicine, the safety of all medicines after licensing is monitored.

It is a legal requirement for pharmaceutical companies to develop risk management plans for all newly licensed medicines. This uses all available data at the time of licensing to identify what is and is not known about the safety of the medicine, to plan what may need to be done to extend safety knowledge and to propose measures to minimise any known risks to patients.

Once a medicine is marketed, the MHRA keeps all medicines authorised in the UK under close and continuous scrutiny using a number of robust procedures and a wide variety of data sources. These include spontaneous adverse drug data received from health care professionals and patients through the UK's Yellow Card Scheme, from clinical trials and epidemiological studies, worldwide published medical literature, data from the manufacturer and information from worldwide regulatory authorities. If a new safety issue is identified action is taken where appropriate to minimise risk to patients, optimise safe use and issue updated prescribing advice.

Drugs: Waste Disposal

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the quantity of pharmaceutical products disposed of unused by the NHS as a result of them reaching their expiry date in the latest period for which figures are available. [41514]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department commissioned research from the York Health Economics Consortium and the School of Pharmacy at the university of London, the findings from which were published in the report, 'Evaluation of the Scale, Causes and Costs of Waste Medicines' on 23 November 2010. That research did not specifically assess the quantity of pharmaceutical products disposed of unused by the national health service in primary and community care as a result of them reaching their expiry date, separate to other causes.

General Practitioners

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the attendance list was for his Department's event for GP pathfinders held on 26 January 2011; and with which organisation each attendee is affiliated. [41441]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is unable to release the attendance list as it is deemed personal information and doing so would breach the first data protection principle of the Data Protection Act 1998. However, the following organisations and pathfinders were represented at the Pathfinder Learning Network Event on 26 January 2011:

Basingstoke Consortia
Bassetlaw Commissioning Organisation
Baywide GPCC Ltd
Bracknell Health Commissioning
Bucks PCT/BCC
Bucks Primary Care Collaborative
Cambridge Association to Commission Health
Coastal West Sussex Federation
County Durham and Darlington Consortium
Cumbria Senate
Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Pathfinder GPCC
Department of Health
Doncaster GP Commissioning
Dudley GP Commissioning Consortium
Ealing Commissioning Consortium (ECC)
East Suffolk Federation
Eastern Cheshire Commissioning Consortium
Fleetwood Community Commissioning Group
Fortis GPCC
Great West Commissioning Consortium
Guildford and Waverley Consortia
HealthEast
Herefordshire GP Commissioning Consortium
Hundreds Health—Salford
Hunts Health
Ipscom
Kingston Consortium
Langbaurgh
Manchester (North, Central and South)
NAPC
National Clinical Network
Nene Commissioning
Newcastle Bridges
Newham Health Partnership
NHS Alliance
NHS Cambridge
NHS East Midlands
NHS East of England
NHS London
NHS North East
NHS North West
NHS Nottinghamshire City
NHS South Central
NHS South East Coast
NHS South West
NHS Trafford
NHS West Midlands
NHS Yorkshire and Humber
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus
North East Lincolnshire Commissioning Consortium
North West Sussex Association of Commissioning Consortia
Oxfordshire Consortium
Principia
Redbridge Consortia
SE Hampshire Pathfinder Project
Sentinel CIC
South Birmingham Integrated Commissioning Consortium
South Gloucestershire Consortium Ltd
South Reading Consortia
Southwark Health Commissioning Consortium
Stockport Managed Care Pathfinder
Surrey Heath Commissioning Group
Sutton Consortium
Thames Medical
The Practice plc
The Red House Group of Practices
Trafford Consortia
United Commissioning
West Cheshire Health Consortium
Wirral GP Commissioning Consortium
Wirral NHS Alliance
WyvernHealth.Com

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly-established GP commissioning consortia are commissioning health care; and how many he expects to be doing so by *(a)* April 2011 and *(b)* April 2012. [42338]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia will be authorised from April 2012 and will take on full responsibility for commissioning health care from April 2013.

The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders. These are groups of GP practices who want to move more quickly to take on additional duties under existing arrangements but in line with the greater responsibilities outlined in 'Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps'. There are currently 141 pathfinder consortia in place covering around 28.6 million people across the country.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the effects of GP commissioning on hospitals. [42546]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" was published in July 2010 and set out our long-term vision for the national health service. Shortly after, we set out further details of our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner practices in "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients", with the consultation on these proposals running from July to October last year.

In December, we published our response to the consultation in "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps" setting out our plans in further detail. This document set out a full analysis of the responses to the consultation and how our proposals were modified in light of the consultation.

All of these documents have already been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what timetable funds will be allocated to GP commissioning fund holders by the NHS Commissioning Board. [42101]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will take over responsibility for commissioning guidelines and the allocation of resources from the Department from 2013-14.

Shadow allocations for general practitioner (GP) consortia will be published late 2011 for 2012-13. Actual allocations for GP consortia will be made late 2012 for 2013-14.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place for GP commissioning fund holders to carry over financial surpluses *(a)* in each financial period and *(b)* at each year end. [42102]

Mr Simon Burns: The financial regime for general practitioner consortia is still under development. The issue of carrying forward financial surpluses will be determined as part of the design of the financial regime.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what level of autonomy over what time period GP commissioning fund holders will have over investment decisions; [42103]

(2) what his policy is on the regulation of financial returns arising from investments made by GP commissioning fund holders; and if he will make a statement. [42104]

Mr Simon Burns: General practice (GP) commissioning consortia will receive annual funding allocations from the National Health Service Commissioning Board. Under the legislation proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill, commissioning consortia will not have powers to invest. GP consortia will have no additional powers, beyond those currently held by primary care trusts (PCTs), to raise additional income. PCTs currently have powers as conferred by section 7(2)(a), (b) and (e) to (h) of the Health and Medicines Act 1988, which include the ability to develop and exploit ideas and exploit intellectual property, to provide instruction and to acquire land by agreement.

Consortia may only use these income-generating powers to the extent that it does not significantly interfere with the performance of their functions and any income generated may only be used to improve the health service.

General Practitioners: Freedom of Information

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP commissioning consortia will be defined as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [41490]

Mr Simon Burns: Commissioning consortia established in accordance with the provisions proposed by the Health and Social Care Bill would be statutory public bodies. The Bill amends the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to incorporate commissioning consortia.

Health Professions: Regulation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to consult on the regulation of healthcare professionals. [42030]

Anne Milton: The Government's strategy on professional regulation in health and social care is set out in the command paper "Enabling Excellence: Autonomy and Accountability for Health and Social Care Staff which was laid before the House on 16 February 2011.

A detailed analytical strategy paper was published alongside the command paper which sets out details of the proposed approach to public engagement. The analytical strategy is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_124359

Health Services: Closures

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in advising on the proposed closure of local health services. [41495]

Mr Simon Burns: As an advisory non-departmental public body, the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) is required to produce an annual business review of its activities and interactions with its sponsor, the Department of Health, including an assessment of achievements against objective and performance targets. Copies of the IRP's business reviews can be found on its website at:

www.irpanel.org.uk/view.asp?id=91

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals he has for consultations on decisions to close local health services. [41528]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's policy is that any significant changes proposed by national health service bodies to the operation or delivery of services, such as the proposal to close a service, must first undergo rigorous patient and public engagement. Evidence of strengthened local patient and public engagement is one of the Secretary of State's four tests for service reconfiguration. Commissioners should ensure that patients, the public, local authorities and other relevant groups, such as Local Involvement Networks (or HealthWatch subject to legislation from April 2012), are involved in the development and consideration of proposals for significant service change.

Health Services: Freedom of Information

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which bodies that will provide NHS services under his proposals for NHS reform will be covered by the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [41496]

Mr Simon Burns: As now, all public bodies in the national health service will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The Act does not apply to private or voluntary sector providers.

HealthWatch England

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to the Care Quality Commission to fund HealthWatch England in each of the next four years. [42339]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to parliamentary approval, HealthWatch England will be established as a statutory committee of the Care Quality Commission (CQC). We are discussing with the CQC future funding for HealthWatch England.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems he plans to put in place to ensure that consistency of specialist care for heart patients is maintained. [41526]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the Health and Social Care Bill successfully completing its passage through Parliament, the NHS Commissioning Board will be established from April 2012 and responsible for commissioning certain services that cannot solely be commissioned by general practitioner consortia including national specialised services and regional specialised services set out in the Specialised Services National Definitions Set. Some heart services are included within this definitions set such as heart transplants and congenital heart disease services.

The Specialised Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Services Definition set can be found at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/library/26/
Specialised_Cardiology_and_Cardiac_Surgery_Services_adult.pdf

Services commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board will be commissioned on the basis of national standards.

Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken on the regulation of herbal practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [41527]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 83-85WS.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has asked the Health Professions Council to establish a statutory register for practitioners supplying unlicensed herbal medicines.

Hospices: Children

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider reallocating to children's hospices the remaining £11 million of the £30 million fund made available in 2010-11 for children's palliative care projects. [42027]

Anne Milton: The £19 million of the £30 million allocated to children's palliative care projects will directly benefit children and their families, improve services and make them more nationally equitable and accessible. All applicants were rigorously assessed by an independent Advisory Panel and over 95% of applicants were successful in receiving funding. The £11 million that was unallocated has been returned to central finance and will be with ministerial approval, used to resources other priorities.

Since 2006, the Department has allocated £47 million to the sector through the children's hospice and hospice at home service. A review of palliative care funding, to promote choice, sustainability and improved outcomes in the sector is also being undertaken. It will report in the summer. The Department has committed to providing £10 million a year beyond 2011 to support children's hospices during the transition to the new funding scheme.

Hospital Beds

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of patients admitted to hospital in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* England who are medically fit for discharge that spend an additional (i) day, (ii) two days, (iii) three days, (iv) four days, (v) five days, (vi) six days or (vii) a week or longer in hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [41088]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people who are medically fit to be discharged but are delayed in hospital has never been collected because the essential business needs of the Department cannot justify the additional administrative burden on the bodies that would have to provide the data.

The Department collects and routinely publishes information on delayed transfers of care. These data include people medically fit to return to the community as well as people awaiting transfer to other health facilities for further treatment, but do not separately identify them. The most recent data are for December 2010, and that for Devon (people normally resident in Devon who experience a delayed transfer of care in any national health service hospital), and for England are shown in the following tables.

Delayed transfers of care, local authorities, England: Number of patients with a delayed transfer of care at midnight on the last Thursday of the reporting period

	Acute	*Non-acute*	*Total*
Devon	63	44	107
England	2,011	1,870	3,881

Delayed transfers of care, local authorities, England: Number of delayed days during the reporting period

	Acute	*Non-acute*	*Total*
Devon	1,982	1,026	3,008
England	59,212	53,726	112,938

Note:
Information on the numbers of people delayed on the last Thursday of the reporting period and the total number of delayed days are not directly comparable because the first is a 'snapshot' and the second a cumulative total.
Source:
Acute and Non-Acute Delayed Transfers of Care: Monthly situation Report on Acute and Non-Acute Delayed Transfers of Care by NHS Provider and Local Authority:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/
Performancedataandstatistics

Hospitals: Consultants

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to prevent NHS employers from reducing the standard amount of protected time hospital consultants have per week for supporting professional activities; and if he will make a statement; [41725]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that hospital consultants have at least 10 hours of protected time a week for supporting professional activities; and if he will make a statement. [41726]

Mr Simon Burns: The consultants' contract ensures that senior doctors' time is used in the best interests of patients, by providing flexibility in job planning agreements between individual doctors and trusts. Job plans are agreed in partnership between individual consultants and their employers, and should be consistent with organisation objectives and patient and service needs. Individual job plans should set out the consultant's duties and include the agreed split of time between direct clinical care, supporting professional activities and other activities. They should be reviewed annually.

There is no set allocation for supporting professional activities in the contract, but a guide toward a "typical average" of 2.5 programmed activities (or 10 hours) for a full-time consultant. Some consultants may have more; others, including newly qualified consultants, may require and receive less. This flexibility is intentional and the precise number and ratio is a matter for local determination as part of the consultant job planning process.

The consultants' contract ensures that senior doctors' time is used in the best interests of patients, by providing flexibility in job planning agreements between individual doctors and trusts. The contract fully recognises the value of wider work in the interests of the national health service.

Hospitals: Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people who volunteered and *(b)* hours given by volunteers in NHS hospitals in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [41971]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected or held centrally. Individual national health service trusts hold the information.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to publicise the opportunity to receive the HPV vaccination during the catch-up programme. [42938]

Anne Milton: The Department provides information resources for primary care trusts (PCTs) and health care professionals to use in the routine human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme for girls aged 12 to 13-years-old. These are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114301

Information for the public is also available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/HPV-vaccination/Pages/Introduction.aspx

When the HPV vaccination programme against cervical cancer was launched in September 2008 it included a catch-up campaign for girls and young women aged up to 18-years-old. The Department provided information suitable for all relevant age groups, including television and radio advertising, posters and leaflets, some of which was aimed specifically at 17 to 18-year-olds.

Almost all PCTs completed the catch-up campaign by September 2010 although five PCTs will be completing it in the current school year. No additional material has been centrally produced for these PCTs.

Incontinence: Disabled People

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the provision of incontinence pads to disabled people with incontinence. [41845]

Paul Burstow: There has been no recent guidance on the provision of incontinence pads to disabled people with incontinence.

Good practice in continence services guidance, published on 19 April 2000, included model principles for continence supplies. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services: Offenders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds he plans to allocate to fund mental health assessments at courts and police stations as part of the planned National Diversion Service. [41884]

Paul Burstow: Ministers will consider the full assessment of the potential costs, benefits and impact of national health service-led commissioning on existing diversion services which has now been made, and funding decisions will follow.

Mental Health Services: South West England

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce a mental health strategy for the south-west. [41474]

Paul Burstow: There is no intention to publish a south-west mental health strategy. We published 'No Health Without Mental Health' on 2 February. It has the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population, and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems. It looks at prevalence of problems and effective approaches at different stages in life, stressing the importance of prevention and early intervention.

Although a national outcomes strategy it illustrates how local health organisations could make real improvements in quality of life for people with mental health problems.

Our work with partners, including the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, has made it clear that the context for this strategy is one of great financial pressure; so we have focused on priority areas of improvement while leaving plans and actions to local decision making. So this strategy should inform local planning and local strategies, but not constrain it.

Midwives: Staff Numbers

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions officials in his Department have had with strategic health authorities on the number of student midwife places in the 2011-12 academic year. [41392]

Anne Milton: The Department has regular contact with colleagues in strategic health authorities. The number of training places commissioned is one of the many subjects that are discussed.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 759W, on midwives: manpower, if he will publish the Strategic Health Authority reports referred to after they have been signed off. [41419]

Anne Milton: It is for each strategic health authority to determine its publication policy for its operating plan once they are signed off at the end of May 2011.

Midwives: Training

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives in each region *(a)* were in training in 2010-11 and *(b)* he expects to be in training in 2011-12. [41617]

Anne Milton: The number of midwives in training varies throughout the academic year as new recruits enter training programmes and others complete their training or leave for other reasons.

The planned number of midwives entering training in 2010-11 is 2,492—a record level. Plans for 2011-12 training commissions are expected to be finalised by the end of March.

MRSA: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methods of screening against the MRSA bacterium hospitals use; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such methods; and if he will make a statement. [43012]

Mr Simon Burns: There are four types of suitable Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) screening methods. These are:

1. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR test) of nucleic acids (rapid testing);
2. Rapid enrichment and immunomagnetic/bioluminescent detection;
3. Chromogenic Agar plating (direct culture); and
4. Broth enrichment culture followed by agar subculture.

Decisions regarding what type of test to use either in isolation or combination are made locally based on clinical protocols. The Department has not conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the different screening methods.

Diagnostic MRSA screening tests for any of these types should be CE marked by the manufacturer according to the safety, quality and performance requirements of the EC in vitro diagnostic devices directive (transposed in to United Kingdom law by the Medical Devices Regulations 2002) before they are placed on the UK market.

National Innovation Centre: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future funding of the NHS National Innovation Centre. [42109]

Mr Simon Burns: The role of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (of which the National Innovation Centre is a part) was considered as part of the Department's review of its arm's-length bodies. The report of the review "Liberating the NHS: report of the arm's-length bodies review", published in July 2010, concluded that the Institute did not satisfy the criteria for continuing as an arm's-length body. It recommended that the Institute's functions relating to quality improvement and building capacity should move to the new NHS Commissioning Board.

Recognising that the Institute is currently funded largely through grant in aid from the Department, the review also recommended that its other functions should be reviewed to see if they could be delivered by alternative models.

As a result, clause 262 of the Health and Social Care Bill provides for the abolition of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

The Department is currently engaging with the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (including the National Innovation Centre) to review and evaluate its functions, with a view to determining whether opportunities exist for alternative commercial delivery models, and whether or not to stop providing for certain functions altogether.

National Lung Cancer Audit

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has made an assessment of the preliminary findings of the National Lung Cancer Audit; and if he will make a statement; [41427]

(2) when he plans to publish the National Lung Cancer Audit; and if he will make a statement. [41611]

Paul Burstow: The National Lung Cancer Audit is an independent national clinical audit supported financially by the Department, and as such does not share its findings with us before publication. Its next report is due to be published at the end of May 2011. We expect local provider organisations to account publicly for what the audit data show about the quality and outcomes of their lung cancer services and seek to improve local services where this is appropriate.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution he expects the National Lung Cancer Audit to make to the NHS Outcomes Framework; and if he will make a statement. [41610]

Paul Burstow: On 20 December 2010, we published 'The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12', which will measure the overall progress of the national health service in delivering better health outcomes for patients. The first NHS Outcomes Framework contains outcomes for cancer including 'one-year and five-year survival rates for lung cancer'.

We expect the proposed NHS Commissioning Board will want to draw on the National Lung Cancer Audit as it begins the process of translating the national outcome goals into outcomes and indicators that are meaningful at a local level, and as it develops other tools to support general practitioner commissioning consortia in delivering improved outcomes for patients.

NHS Commissioning Board: Voluntary Organisations

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the NHS Commissioning Board to engage with *(a)* the British Heart Foundation and *(b)* other voluntary sector organisations. [41521]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will develop effective ways to harness the public and patient voice including from voluntary organisations. When the NHS Commissioning Board is established, it will agree the detail of these arrangements.

NHS Outcomes Framework

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next plans to review the NHS Outcomes Framework. [41279]

Mr Simon Burns: On 20 December, we published 'The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12', which set out the outcomes and corresponding indicators that will be used to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering better outcomes for patients.

It also set out our commitment to updating the NHS Outcomes Framework annually to ensure that it focuses on the outcomes that matter most to patients, so that it can accommodate new and better indicators as they become available.

However, in order to measure progress over time, it will be important to maintain the continuity of the indicators in the framework, so we envisage that only a small number of indicators will change or be refined in any one year.

Every five years, the Secretary of State will commission an external review of the NHS Outcomes Framework to assess the extent to which the framework is meeting its objectives.

NHS Trusts

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral evidence given by the chief executive of the NHS to the Public Accounts Committee on 25 January 2011, Q88, if he will publish the list of NHS trusts which are unlikely to become foundation trusts. [43005]

Mr Simon Burns: Work is currently under way to support delivery of the Government's expectation that all national health service trusts achieve NHS foundation trust status by April 2014. Until the work is finalised, the list of NHS trusts who may be unable to achieve NHS foundation trust status cannot be confirmed.

NHS: Drugs

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency intends to publish its final report on its review of regulatory arrangements for unlicensed medicines established under Article 5.1 of European Union Directive 2001/83/EC; and if he will make a statement. [42241]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is planning a public consultation exercise to take place later in 2011 on formal proposals for reform of the United Kingdom's national arrangements established under Article 5.1 of Directive 2001/83/EC. The consultation will build on the informal consultation which has taken place with interested parties under the review.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency intends to publish its response to public consultation (MLX 365) on measures to strengthen the medicines' supply chain and reduce the risk from counterfeit medicines; and if he will make a statement. [42242]

Mr Simon Burns: Following the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA's) consultation (MLX 365) on measures to strengthen the medicines' supply chain and reduce the risk from counterfeit medicines, we are considering how to take these policies forward in the context of the Falsified Medicines Directive, the Government's wider regulation agenda, and the MHRA's continuing commitment to ensuring that the United Kingdom remains a hostile environment for counterfeit medicines. A response will be published in due course.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report by the Ministerial Industry Strategy Group on earlier access to medicines, when he intends to make a decision on whether the scheme will go ahead; and if he will make a statement. [42341]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are currently considering proposals on earlier access to medicines. It is expected that we will be able to publish our determination shortly.

NHS: Legal Costs

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on litigation proceedings in each year between 1997 and 2006. [41793]

Mr Simon Burns: The data to answer this question was supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA). Information on how much the national health service spent on litigation proceedings in each year between 1997 and 2006 is shown in the following table. Data only covers proceedings against members of the NHSLA's schemes.

Payments made by the NHSLA in respect of negligence claims

£000

	Clinical claims		Non-clinical claims	
	Damages	*Legal costs*	*Damages*	*Legal costs*
2006-07	428,460	150,930	11,735	18,379
2005-06	409,278	151,030	12,113	14,904
2004-05	368,453	134,441	21,699	16,445
2003-04	301,328	121,186	655	6,858
2002-03	328,980	117,204	9,608	5,790
2001-02[1]	452,070	96,874	3,049	1,868
2000-01[1]	620,514	251,472	665	301
1999-2000[1]	211,324	66,032	12	25
1998-99[1]	[2]345,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997-98[1]	[2]41,000	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] The NHSLA took over the financial and claims handling responsibility for all clinical negligence claims from April 2002. Prior to April 2002, the NHSLA operated excess levels and only handled those cases valued at above excess.

[2] The NHSLA ran its schemes on a reimbursement basis during these years, so the amount recorded reflects the total amount reimbursed in that year to scheme members on claims payments that may have been made in earlier years. The figures do not separate out damages and legal costs so represent the total reimbursed.

Source:
NHSLA

NHS: Private Sector

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treatment carried out by the private sector on behalf of the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [41425]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows expenditure by national health service commissioners (primary care trusts) in England on the purchase of NHS treatment from non-NHS bodies for 2009-10, broken down by sector. The total figure in this table is included in NHS (England) Summarised Accounts, which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119210

Category	*£000*
Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTCs)	373,058
Other private sector	3,765,513
Voluntary sector	560,445
Other (including local authorities)	2,749,109
Total	7,448,125

Source: Audited summarisation schedules of primary care trusts 2009-10.

NHS: Productivity

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change in measurable productivity in the national health service was in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. [41090]

Mr Simon Burns: United Kingdom national health service productivity, as measured by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is given in the following table.

Growth in UK NHS productivity 1998-2008

	Percentage
1998	-0.5
1999	0.5
2000	-0.5
2001	1.2
2002	-2.0
2003	-1.6
2004	0.0
2005	0.1
2006	1.6
2007	-0.3
2008	-0.7

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Productivity estimates for 2009 are not yet available.
3. ONS estimates productivity on a calendar year, rather than financial year basis.

Source:
Penaloza M., Wild R., Hardie M. and Mills K. (2010) Public Service Output, Input and Productivity: Healthcare, Office for National Statistics.

NHS: Reform

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on multi-disciplinary and multi-agency involvement in commissioning under his proposals for NHS reform. [41531]

Mr Simon Burns: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" described our plans to establish a comprehensive system of general practitioner (GP) consortia to commission most national health service services, supported by and accountable to a new independent NHS Commissioning Board. We believe that effective GP commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people. Hospital doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals and others all have a vital role to play and a real opportunity to develop services and improve the health outcomes of their local populations. GP consortia will need to ensure that they have access to and draw upon the necessary expertise of those working in health and social care to ensure that they have the most appropriate specialist input into their commissioning decisions.

The Health and Social Care Bill therefore proposes to place a duty on the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortia to make arrangements to ensure that they have appropriate advice from professionals with expertise in health. We believe, however, that the Board and consortia should have the freedom and flexibility to decide how best they exercise this duty, rather than rely on rigid prescribed structures.

Obesity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between activity levels and obesity in the last five years. [41247]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research funds a wide range of research relating to obesity including evaluations of interventions to increase activity levels and decrease sedentary behaviour.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) receives its funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC Epidemiology Unit in Cambridge is carrying out work on interventions designed to increase physical activity, and to monitor its impact on health. The unit is also examining the interactions between physical activity and physical fitness in relation to metabolic risk, and whether sedentary behaviour is related to obesity and metabolic risk when the total amount of physical activity is controlled for.

In 2009, the Department of Health set up an expert group to review existing evidence on the impact of sedentary behaviour, including screen time on obesity, and the impact on health and activity levels. In addition, a separate expert group was set up in 2009 to review the evidence for early years physical activity and sedentary behaviour.

Obesity: Surgery

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans for a change to the tariff for metabolic surgery; and if he will make a statement. [42547]

Mr Simon Burns: The national payment by results tariffs are subject to ongoing development. The Department works with a number of clinical and technical advisory groups that provide advice on the structure and scope of the tariff.

Draft tariffs are shared with clinicians each year for 'sense checking'. This is a key stage in tariff development, through which any anomalies or perverse clinical incentives can be identified and addressed prior to the publication of the tariff for 'road testing' by the national health service.

The final tariff for 2011-12 was published on 18 February 2011 and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_124356

Patient Preference

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that appropriate information and support is available to ensure that patient preferences for decision-making organisations are respected. [41522]

Mr Simon Burns: Our vision for health and adult social care as set out in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" emphasises the importance of people's access to the information they need to stay healthy, to take decisions about and exercise more control of their care and to make the right choices for themselves and their families. We have recently concluded two separate consultations on the action required to make this vision a reality—'Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution'; and 'Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control'—and have received valuable feedback from organisations, professionals, patients and service users. We are analysing the responses. The analysis will be used to help determine how best to equip patients, as well as those providing care, with the information and support they need to access appropriate health and care services.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortia demonstrate patient and carer involvement in service *(a)* commissioning, *(b)* design and *(c)* development. [41523]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill places a duty on general practitioner (GP) consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board to ensure that people who receive a service are involved in its planning and development, and to promote and extend public and patient involvement and choice.

However, we do not plan to prescribe the precise mechanisms by which the Board or consortia need to engage with the public. We want to ensure that the focus is on developing behaviours and cultures that will encourage and facilitate public involvement and patient voice in the commissioning and development of health services.

Post-menopausal Osteoporosis

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* predicted and *(b)* observed prescribed number of defined daily doses of treatment for post-menopausal osteoporosis was in each primary care trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [41283]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables show the expected estimated number of defined daily doses at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level for medicines for the treatment for post-menopausal osteoporosis. These estimates have been derived by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) from its costing template for the relevant technology appraisal and have been updated, where possible, to take into account the most up-to-date and robust information available. These figures do not represent NICE'S view of desirable maximum or minimum figures. Furthermore, the estimated use in PCTs is based on national assumptions and scaled down to approximate numbers at PCT level. It does not take account of any local variations, such as varying prevalence of osteoporosis and socioeconomic compositions.

The following tables also show the actual use observed for 2009 in prescriptions written in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom.

Predicted and observed use may differ for a variety of reasons and should not be assumed to indicate either 'under' or 'over' prescribing.

		Thousand
PCT	Predicted defined daily doses[1]	Observed defined daily doses in 2009[2]
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	1,203.1	1,485.0
Barking and Dagenham	486.6	1,192.6
Barnet	1,178.7	1,757.4
Barnsley	954.8	1,458.9
Bassetlaw	464.6	720.3
Bath and North East Somerset	760.2	1,914.5
Bedfordshire	1,577.4	1,534.9
Berkshire East	1,303.2	1,205.8
Berkshire West	1,598.3	884.9
Bexley Care Trust	843.8	2,275.1
Birmingham East and North	1,462.0	1,591.5
Blackburn with Darwen	516.5	3,531.7
Blackpool	597.6	1,179.5
Bolton	1,008.2	3,150.3
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	1,450.6	1,205.3
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	1,709.0	3,348.8
Brent Teaching	826.9	1,262.0
Brighton and Hove City	889.4	848.4
Bristol	1,376.5	331.8
Bromley	1,241.5	701.6
Buckinghamshire	1,994.0	913.9
Bury	712.3	2,642.1
Calderdale	801.0	2,363.8
Cambridgeshire	2,253.8	1,046.9
Camden	568.0	3,603.6
Central and Eastern Cheshire	1,928.5	1,519.1
Central Lancashire	1,760.2	4,331.1
City and Hackney Teaching	521.3	1,327.3
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	2,608.9	1,411.9
County Durham	2,175.1	880.8
Coventry Teaching	1,142.4	1,027.0
Croydon	1,121.0	1,408.6
Cumbria Teaching	2,350.7	1,553.3
Darlington	415.7	1,336.7
Derby City	1,003.5	654.2
Derbyshire County	3,032.0	2,740.1
Devon	3,630.4	3,298.0
Doncaster	1,219.4	3,531.8
Dorset	2,077.8	1,032.4
Dudley	1,277.3	1,167.7
Ealing	943.9	764.3
East and North Hertfordshire	2,102.7	1,159.5
East Lancashire Teaching	1,492.0	1,349.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,467.2	3,275.5
East Sussex Downs and Weald	1,677.3	1,140.0
Eastern and Coastal Kent	3,197.1	1,633.6
Enfield	909.9	2,259.2
Gateshead	815.0	3,292.9
Gloucestershire	2,514.2	533.8
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	1,087.8	817.6
Greenwich Teaching	683.2	1,392.2
Halton and St Helens	1,238.3	1,425.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	455.0	2,577.5
Hampshire	5,411.7	2,346.6
Haringey Teaching	644.2	1,087.8
Harrow	748.0	2,597.9
Hartlepool	363.5	1,932.8
Hastings and Rother	890.6	1,264.7
Havering	1,027.7	2,088.0
Heart of Birmingham	637.8	937.6
Herefordshire	865.5	2,198.3
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	767.4	3,317.2
Hillingdon	831.4	1,684.8
Hounslow	667.0	1,228.6
Hull Teaching	994.9	1,107.2
Isle of Wight NHS	727.5	2,542.3
Islington	468.2	1,196.1
Kensington and Chelsea	650.8	898.6
Kingston	559.0	885.8
Kirklees	1,470.9	1,428.5
Knowsley	577.2	4,223.5
Lambeth	673.2	601.1
Leeds	2,709.4	3,586.5
Leicester City	948.3	1,878.6
Leicestershire County and Rutland	2,706.8	2,410.8
Lewisham	694.3	1,415.0
Lincolnshire	3,303.7	1,394.5
Liverpool	1,638.9	870.7
Luton	551.0	729.3
Manchester	1,372.3	1,951.4
Medway	973.5	5,601.2
Mid Essex	1,455.1	5,739.9
Middlesbrough	541.5	1,700.1
Milton Keynes	756.8	2,029.2
Newcastle	936.5	1,369.5
Newham	564.9	866.7
Norfolk	3,470.9	2,237.8
North East Essex	1,472.8	2,054.6
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	672.6	4,750.9
North Lancashire Teaching	1,533.5	1,124.4
North Lincolnshire	693.9	1,822.3
North Somerset	943.3	767.2
North Staffordshire	911.1	1,878.8
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	736.9	1,255.4
North Tyneside	885.9	1,656.5

Thousand

PCT	*Predicted defined daily doses*[1]	*Observed defined daily doses in 2009*[2]
North Yorkshire and York	3,496.9	1,669.5
Northamptonshire Teaching	2,520.2	1,886.7
Northumberland Care Trust	1,476.7	2,681.0
Nottingham City	872.0	2,253.9
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	2,725.0	1,979.4
Oldham	825.0	1,297.2
Oxfordshire	2,310.3	900.2
Peterborough	528.5	887.0
Plymouth Teaching	1,008.0	1,151.9
Portsmouth City Teaching	686.8	2,373.1
Redbridge	803.2	1,586.3
Redcar and Cleveland	580.9	1,303.9
Richmond and Twickenham	611.7	891.9
Rotherham	994.7	3,396.3
Salford	800.5	3,012.8
San dwell	1,141.4	2,849.1
Sefton	1,273.5	941.6
Sheffield	1,989.5	1,901.7
Shropshire County	1,367.3	1,227.3
Solihull Care Trust	890.8	1,442.6
Somerset	2,479.7	1,657.5
South Birmingham	1,254.2	1,287.9
South East Essex	1,499.6	1,006.1
South Gloucestershire	944.0	649.7
South Staffordshire	2,491.4	2,880.6
South Tyneside	643.8	1,433.4
South West Essex	1,540.9	1,903.9
Southampton City	788.3	665.0
Southwark	629.4	1,107.4
Stockport	1,174.8	970.9
Stoke on Trent	1,034.0	1,252.9
Suffolk	2,635.5	1,698.5
Sunderland Teaching	1,123.7	971.7
Surrey	4,423.2	1,558.3
Sutton and Merton	1,210.6	880.3
Swindon	690.1	1,403.0
Tameside and Glossop	863.5	1,280.7
Telford and Wrekin	605.7	1,449.2
Torbay Care Trust	719.9	1,240.1
Tower Hamlets	410.5	478.3
Trafford	819.8	2,139.0
Wakefield District	1,357.5	2,892.9
Walsall Teaching	984.3	844.0
Waltham Forest	651.5	678.0
Wandsworth Teaching	726.7	720.2
Warrington	753.8	2,865.0
Warwickshire	2,188.9	1,958.0
West Essex	1,068.6	2,958.5
West Hertfordshire	2,058.7	1,134.8
West Kent	2,717.4	1,716.9
West Sussex	3,664.0	1,563.4
Western Cheshire	1,075.9	1,112.0
Westminster	653.4	1,240.4
Wiltshire	1,935.5	1,571.7
Wirral	1,403.9	2,276.0
Wolverhampton City	919.9	1,175.5
Worcestershire	2,420.4	1,695.5

Thousand

SHA	*Predicted defined daily doses*[1]	*Observed defined daily doses in 2009*[2]
East Midlands	17,576	19,754
East of England	23,303	29,851
London	23,005	33,073
North East	10,695	16,776
North West	27,688	38,450
South Central	15,577	19,278
South East Coast	18,432	26,743
South West	23,139	31,565
West Midlands	21,594	26,523
Yorkshire and the Humber	20,532	25,108

Sources:

[1] National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Includes alendronic acid, disodium etidronate, sodium risedronate, strontium ranelate and raloxifene.

These figures are estimates only and are not to be taken as the NICE view of desirable, or maximum or minimum figures. They are derived by apportioning the national estimate on the basis of the number of women aged 50 and over registered with general practices in each PCT.

[2] Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system

Excludes medicines supplied through hospital clinics.

It is not possible to identify whether a medicine has been used for the purposes appraised by NICE as these medicines are also used for the treatment of men and pre-menopausal women.

Some preparations of sodium risedronate and disodium etidronate are excluded where it was clear from the strength that they were intended for treatment of Paget's disease.

For combined products, such as sodium risedronate with calcium carbonate and colecalciferol, any content additional to the drugs in NICE's guidance is excluded.

Respite Care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the provision of respite care for families of *(a)* profoundly mentally ill people and *(b)* physically ill people over the comprehensive spending review period. [41248]

Paul Burstow: No specific assessment of the provision of respite care for families of profoundly mentally ill or physically ill people has been made.

However, the Government's updated Carers Strategy, 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy', sets out the overarching priority areas for action over the next four years. This includes the provision of personalised support for carers and those they support, and supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well. This may include carers of people with mental or physical illnesses.

The Carers' Strategy also identified that £400 million will be made available for carers' breaks over the next four years (2011-12 to 2014-15). This funding will be made available in primary care trust (PCT) allocations. This funding is not ring-fenced so that local government and the national health service have as much discretion as possible, to concentrate resources on local priorities. These funds can therefore be used to provide breaks for all carers, including those supporting people who are mentally or physically ill.

The 'Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12' makes clear that the additional funding in PCT baselines to support the provision of breaks for carers should be pooled budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks. For 2011-12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people.

The Department for Education announced in December that they are providing over £800 million over the next four years for short breaks for families of disabled children as part of the new Early Intervention Grant. The Government will be providing £198 million/£202 million/£206 million/£210 million for short breaks over the next four years including the Child Trust Fund money of at least £20 million each year. The Early Intervention Grant is not ring-fenced and it will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children.

Swine Flu

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the *(a)* Northern Ireland Executive, *(b)* Scottish Executive and *(c)* Welsh Assembly Government on a collective response to swine influenza. [41755]

Anne Milton: Discussions with the devolved Administrations at both ministerial and official level are regular and ongoing on all public health issues including swine flu and pandemic planning.

Treatment Centres

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* operations performed by and *(b)* minimum payment guarantees issued to each independent treatment centre in each year since 2003. [41886]

Mr Simon Burns: The information has been placed in the Library. The following table shows the amounts paid to each independent sector treatment centre compared to the value of the procedures performed for each calendar year to 31 December 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken to ensure appropriate scrutiny of the recently announced increase in aid to Burma to reduce the risk of misappropriation of funds. [42345]

Mr Duncan: Future UK aid to Burma will continue to be delivered through the United Nations and reputable non-government organisations (NGOs) which have in place stringent monitoring mechanisms. UK funds will not be channelled through the Burmese central Government. Department for International Development (DFID) staff will monitor the delivery of our aid through field visits, direct contacts with beneficiaries, clear reporting requirements for recipient organisations and a close examination of their budgets and annual audited statements.

UK aid will also be subject to independent evaluations. Large programmes in Burma will have mechanisms that enable beneficiaries to raise concerns and have them investigated.

Central America: Overseas Aid

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department provides to projects in central America with which the charity Casa Alianza is involved. [42234]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide direct assistance to any projects involving the charity Casa Alianza.

DFID provides considerable support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) which have a child-rights focus and work with vulnerable children globally, including in Central America. This includes UK charities such as Save the Children UK, Plan International UK and World Vision UK. DFID's aim is to ensure that the support provided includes assistance to vulnerable children and young people and addresses the breadth of their needs. This includes children living on the street as well as those living with HIV and AIDS, those who are orphaned, or working in abusive labour conditions.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Debts Written Off

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much debt cancellation for the Democratic Republic of Congo has contributed to UK Official Development Assistance in the latest period for which figures are available, and how much has been transferred from his Department to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in respect of such cancellation. [42266]

Mr O'Brien: The Democratic Republic of Congo reached completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in July 2010 and received its final debt treatment at the Paris Club in November 2010. Following this, the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) cancelled all of the £91 million of remaining debt, which will all contribute to the UK's Overseas Development Assistance. No Department for International Development (DFID) contribution to ECGD was required in this case.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42895]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide interpretation services, and does not employ an interpreter on a permanent basis. DFID country offices may procure interpretation services, through a provider contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Any cost of procuring these services is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

DFID has one non-departmental public body, The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which does not provide interpretation services.

Departmental Policy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42608]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is fully committed to the terms and the spirit of the Compact and strives to ensure that the civil society sector is fully consulted before policy decisions are taken. For example, before designing the new Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF), DFID organised a consultation process seeking views from civil society organisations from around the globe. These views helped shape the final policies and criteria for this new fund.

Gaza: Electricity Supply

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the supply of electricity to Gaza and its effect on essential services including water supply, sewage treatment and health services. [42226]

Mr Duncan: The UK has not made any specific representations to Israel on the supply of electricity to Gaza as we do not see Israeli restrictions on supplies of electricity or fuel as being the main current cause of electricity shortages in Gaza. Israel continues to provide 120 megawatts (MW) of electricity per day directly to Gaza which meets approximately 43% of Gaza's power needs and is paid for by the Palestinian Authority. Egypt provides a further 17MW and the balance of Gaza's power needs (approximately 140MW) should be met by the Gaza power plant. The Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO) is now buying diesel fuel, which is sourced via tunnels between Egypt and Gaza, to operate two turbines in the power station to produce 60MW, and has not requested any industrial fuel from Israel since 5 January 2011. The majority of the population still experience power cuts, but these are now four to six hours a day, down from eight to 12 hours per day since mid-December 2010.

International Assistance

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking together with other countries to improve the delivery of international aid. [41801]

Mr Duncan: 2011 is a crucial year to make international aid more effective. DFID is playing an important role in implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. In November, donors and partners will meet at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea to decide on further commitments to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. DFID will continue to be an international leader on implementing approaches that increase the effectiveness of aid, and we expect to play an important role in the run up to the High Level Forum. DFID's Business Plan 2011-15 sets out a strong agenda on results, value for money, transparency and accountability; and this will be central to our approach to making aid more effective internationally.

Microfinance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department requires microfinance initiatives to which it contributes funding to produce a strategic plan outlining how the initiative will become sustainable. [41887]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) rarely provides direct funding support to microfinance organisations. Our work on microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research. Programmes are often implemented by intermediaries, such as non-governmental organisations, central banks, government agencies or in partnership with other donors.

Organisations supported by DFID must submit business plans demonstrating how the initiative will become sustainable and contribute to poverty reduction. Economic, social and institutional appraisals are conducted to assess the feasibility of the business plan. All programmes are reviewed annually to track progress against agreed indicators, and on completion, to evaluate their development impact. For example, DFID's Financial Inclusion Programme (FIP), implemented through the State Bank of Pakistan (SPB), aims to increase the sustainability of the financial sector through capacity building, product development and regulatory reform. FIP also supports the transformation of donor-dependent, unregulated microfinance institutions into regulated microfinance banks and provides guarantees to help them access commercial financing.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which profit-making microfinance organisations his Department provides funding; and what level of support has been provided to each such organisation in the latest period for which figures are available. [41888]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) rarely provides direct funding support to microfinance organisations. Our work on microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research. Programmes are often implemented by intermediaries, such as non-governmental organisations, central banks, government agencies, or in partnership with other donors. It is therefore not possible to identify profit-making microfinance organisations, which may have benefited from DFID-funded financial sector development programmes without incurring disproportionate cost.

DFID is working to increase the sustainability of the commercial microfinance sector. For example, the Financial Inclusion Programme (FIP) in Pakistan is supporting the transition of donor-dependent, unregulated microfinance institutions into stable, regulated microfinance banks and provides guarantees to help them access commercial financing on a sustainable basis.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for microfinance initiatives in *(a)* Eastern and Southern Africa, *(b)* West and Central Africa, *(c)* North Africa and the Middle East, *(d)* South Asia, *(e)* Central Asia, *(f)* East Asia and the Pacific, *(g)* the Caribbean, *(h)* Europe and *(i)* Latin America in the latest period for which figures are available. [41943]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any active microfinance programmes in east Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe or Latin America. The requested information for the other regions cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Examples of financial sector development programmes that incorporate DFID's work on microfinance in these regions include:

Eastern and Southern Africa: The FinMark Trust in Southern Africa and the Financial Sector Deepening Trusts in Kenya and Tanzania which aim to promote access to finance for poor people through identifying and resolving constraints on financial market development.

West and Central Africa: The Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (EFinA) programme funded jointly with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Nigeria is supporting the development of a new financial inclusion strategy, the innovation of new financial products, capacity building for financial institutions and research on the use of financial services among poor households.

North Africa and the Middle East: DFID is supporting a $150 million multi- donor regional programme implemented by the International Finance Corporation in 19 countries and territories in north Africa and the middle east, which includes microfinance initiatives through the Access to Finance component.

South Asia: DFID's £50 million Financial Inclusion Programme, implemented through the State Bank of Pakistan (SPB), aims to increase the sustainability of the financial sector through capacity building, product development and regulatory reform.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* performance and *(b)* client protection requirements his Department places on recipients of financing provided to apex funds for microfinance projects. [41944]

Mr O'Brien: Providing access to stable, sustainable, quality and affordable financial services for the poor is the objective of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) financial sector development programmes, including support for apex institutions. All organisations funded by DFID are reviewed annually to assess their performance against an agreed set of indicators, and on completion, to evaluate their development impact.

Measures to improve client protection are key criteria of DFID's financial sector development programmes. For example, DFID's Financial Inclusion programme in Pakistan incorporates a comprehensive strategy to safeguard client interests through capacity building for financial institutions, regulatory reform and financial education. DFID also supports the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), the multi-donor think tank on microfinance housed in the World Bank, which leads on client protection issues. CGAP has also quantitatively assessed the performance of 34 apex institutions in achieving their original development objectives and in improving the sustainability of microfinance institutions. The research, due for publication in March 2011, will be used to inform DFID's future work with apex organisations.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provides for graduation programmes; and what proportion such support represents of his Department's total spending on microfinance projects. [42074]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports microfinance institutions to become self-sufficient through its broader financial sector development programmes. For example, through its Financial Inclusion Programme in Pakistan, DFID is helping to transform donor-dependent, unregulated microfinance institutions into regulated microfinance banks and supporting their access to commercial funds through guarantees. In Iraq, DFID is supporting the International Finance Corporation's Iraq Business Assistance Facility, which supports the transition of non-profit organizations into for-profit financial intermediaries. DFID also supports initiatives that help people progress out of extreme poverty and access microfinance services. More than 90,000 households which graduated out of extreme poverty in the Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty programme in Bangladesh accessed microfinance services within one year.

Graduation initiatives are incorporated into broader financial sector development or livelihood programmes. Specific costs associated with graduation can not therefore be meaningfully disaggregated. DFID also does not hold consolidated data on expenditure on microfinance programmes as a proportion of the total overseas aid budget.

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* client protection measures and *(b)* monitoring of effects on poverty levels requirements his Department puts upon microfinance organisations in receipt of funding from his Department. [42105]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) rarely provides direct funding to microfinance organisations. Our work on microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research.

Protecting the rights of poor clients is an important criteria for financial sector development programmes supported by DFID. For example, DFID's Financial Inclusion Programme in Pakistan incorporates a comprehensive strategy to safeguard client interests through capacity building for financial institutions, regulatory reform and financial education. DFID also supports the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), the multi-donor think tank on microfinance housed in the World Bank, which leads on client protection issues. All financial sector development programmes must demonstrate how funding provided by DFID will contribute to poverty reduction. Progress is tracked by indicators such as income, assets, employment and enterprise growth. Programmes are reviewed annually, and on completion, to evaluate their development impact.

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department uses to evaluate the effect of its support to microfinance programmes on the movement of microfinance clients out of poverty. [42106]

Mr O'Brien: Poverty alleviation is at the heart of all financial sector development programmes supported by the Department for International Development (DFID). Indicators such as income, assets, consumption, employment and business growth are used to measure the movement of microfinance clients out of poverty. All programmes are reviewed annually to track progress against these indicators, and on completion, to evaluate their development impact.

External data are also used to validate the progress or impact of financial sector development programmes on reducing poverty. For example, the DFID-supported FinMark Trust's tracks changes in the income, savings, debt and expenditure of low-income consumers in Southern Africa in its quarterly Consumer Financial Vulnerability Index. DFID has also commissioned a systematic review of the impact of microcredit on poor people; the results of which will be used to inform our future interventions in this area.

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department uses to determine which microfinance organisations receive funding from his Department. [42107]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) rarely provides direct funding support to microfinance organisations. Our work on microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research. Programmes are often implemented by intermediaries, such as non-governmental organisations, central banks, government agencies or in partnership with other donors.

All organisations must demonstrate how funding provided by DFID will be used to reduce poverty. Economic, social and institutional appraisals are conducted to assess the sustainability of the organisation and the potential development impact of their programme. For example, DFID is funding CHF, an international NGO, to provide access to finance to micro and small enterprises in Basra province, Southern Iraq. CHF was selected based on its track record of delivering small business finance, existing portfolio performance, robust lending practices and experience of building local capacity to manage microfinance programmes. Loans have been provided to more than 1,000 clients since May 2009, with one-third disbursed to women.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's funding for microfinance projects is co-ordinated with other policies for the purposes of encouraging an environment for microfinance services. [42227]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID)'s support for microfinance is part of a comprehensive approach to financial sector development, which aims to provide sustainable, quality and affordable financial services to individuals, households and firms in developing countries. Programmes supported by DFID provide a range of interventions to improve policy and regulation; strengthen the capacity of financial institutions, expand the evidence base on financial inclusion and innovate new financial products that meet the needs of the poor.

For example, the Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (EFinA) programme funded jointly by DFID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Nigeria shows how integrated financial sector development creates a strong enabling environment for sustainable microfinance services. EFinA is: (1) supporting the Central Bank to develop a new financial inclusion strategy that includes making microfinance more stable, sustainable and responsive to poor client needs; (2) spurring the development of new financial products, including micro-savings, through grants from its Innovation Fund; (3) providing targeted capacity building for financial institutions including microfinance providers; and (4) conducting research on the supply, demand and use of financial services among poor households.

Overseas Aid

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will review the allocation of funding provided by the previous Administration through his Department to UK-based non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and trade unions; and if he will disallow or claw back any funds that are identified as having been inappropriately spent. [42936]

Mr O'Brien: All projects supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) through UK based non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations and trade unions, including those supported under the previous Administration, are required to submit annual progress reports including financial reports. These are reviewed and appraised. If, through this process, DFID finds that an organisation had used DFID funds inappropriately, DFID is prepared to take necessary steps to seek reimbursement for any funds provided.

DFID has already undertaken a comprehensive review of our Building Support for Development (BSD) programme and has ceased funding of some projects.

Pakistan: Floods

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of people affected by the 2010 floods in Pakistan who are yet to receive aid. [41470]

Mr Duncan: There are no official estimates of people who are yet to receive any aid in Pakistan following the devastating flooding in July-August 2010. The United Nations Floods Emergency Response Plan targeted 14 million people and is 64% funded. This means not all projects under the plan will reach all intended beneficiaries. The UK was the third largest contributor to the UN appeal and led efforts to lobby the international community to respond generously to the floods.

The Department for International Development's (DFID's) team in Pakistan closely monitors the relief and early recovery effort. When isolated communities have been identified as being in dire need of assistance, DFID has lobbied the relevant authorities to undertake more detailed needs assessments and respond as appropriate. DFID has also been an active supporter of organisations working to identify vulnerable populations and takes steps to ensure they receive appropriate aid.

Palestinians: Emigration

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Palestinians who left the Gaza Strip in October 2010 to enter *(a)* Israel, *(b)* Egypt, *(c)* the West Bank and *(d)* other countries. [41307]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government do not hold comprehensive statistics on the movement of people into or out of Gaza. Gaza has two pedestrian crossing points: at Erez (with Israel) and at Rafah (with Egypt). The World Health Organisation (WHO) report that in October 2010 709 Palestinian patients exited Gaza at Erez for medical treatment. We do not have information on numbers of non-patients exiting through Erez, or their final destinations. The UN reports that approximately 360 people per day were able to leave Gaza through the Rafah crossing between June 2010 and January 2011. We do not have information on their final destinations. WHO estimates that an average of 600 Gazan patients per month entered Egypt through Rafah for medical treatment in Egyptian hospitals, between June 2010 and January 2011.

Palestinians: Health Services

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip treated for medical conditions in Israeli hospitals since 1 January 2010. [41302]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government do not hold comprehensive statistics on Palestinian medical cases. The World Health Organisation (WHO) report that in 2010 the Palestinian Ministry of Health's Referral Abroad Department referred 2,443 people to Israeli hospitals, out of a total of 11,791 referrals. We do not have information on the number of these patients who left Gaza for their treatment.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of exit permits Israel issued to Palestinians from the Gaza Strip in October 2010 to enable them to receive medical treatment in *(a)* Israel, *(b)* the West Bank and *(c)* other countries. [41304]

Mr Duncan: The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that in October 2010 the Israeli District Liaison Office processed 976 Gazan patient applications for permits to enter Israel. Of these, 744 were approved and 709 patients actually left Gaza for treatment; decisions on 211 were delayed and 21 were denied. The difference between total approvals and total patients exiting Gaza is explained by a small number of approvals being granted late in the month, delaying transit until the following month. WHO does not hold details of where these patients were treated.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the EU provided to coexistence projects between Israelis and Palestinians in 2010; and what proportion of EU aid to Israel and the Palestinian territories in that year this represented. [41291]

Mr Duncan: According to information provided by the European External Action Service, in 2010 the EU Partnership for Peace Programme spent €10 million supporting local and international civil society initiatives to promote peace, tolerance and non-violence between Arabs and Israelis. This compares to a total of €367 million of EU aid to the occupied Palestinian territories and to Palestinian refugees in the region in 2010. The EU did not provide any official development assistance (ODA) to Israel in 2010.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the Palestinian Facility For New Market Development since April 2008. [41294]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £3,270,000 to the Facility for New Market Development between 1 April 2008 and 21 February 2011. DFID funding has provided support to 229 small businesses in both Gaza and the west bank, helping to develop 96 new products, improve 54 products and create over 1,130 new jobs.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to provide financial support to the Palestinian Facility for new market development in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [41295]

Mr Duncan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will shortly be announcing to the House the outcome of our major root and branch review of bilateral aid which has looked in detail at each country. This review includes our support to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what reports he has received on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza strip since July 2010; [41305]

(2) what reports he has received on the developmental situation in the Gaza Strip since 18 October 2010. [41328]

Mr Duncan: UK Ministers and officials regularly discuss the humanitarian and development situation in Gaza with the Palestinian Authority, Israel, UN agencies, other donor countries and organisations, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We remain concerned that Gaza's economy, institutions and civil society are undergoing a process described by the UN as 'de-development'.

The most comprehensive report we have received since October 2010 is "Dashed Hopes: Continuation of the Gaza Blockade", published by a number of European NGOs in November 2010. This is available at:

www.oxfam.org.uk

In addition, we regularly receive reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, including their monthly Humanitarian Monitor and their weekly Protection of Civilians report, available at:

www.ochaopt.org

Finally, the Portland Trust publishes a monthly bulletin on the economic situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, which also covers Gaza. This is available at:

www.portlandtrust.org

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to support the Big Society initiative. [42633]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has participated in discussions with other Departments about the Big Society. DFID is contributing to the initiative in a variety of ways including: through the launch of the International Citizens Service; by working with civil society organisations to support individuals and communities to improve their lives; by helping to increase community engagement in service delivery and poor people's participation in decision-making; and by sharing experience from DFID's work overseas.

Togo: Debts Written Off

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much debt cancellation for Togo has contributed to UK Official Development Assistance in the latest period in which figures are available; and how much has been transferred from his Department to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in respect of such cancellation. [42267]

Mr O'Brien: Togo reached completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in December 2010 and received its final treatment at the Paris Club in the same month. As a result, £14.8 million will be written off and contribute to Overseas Development Assistance. Of this, the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) will contribute £3.5 million and the Department for International Development (DFID) the balance of £11.3 million.

UN Women Agency

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to support the new UN Women agency; and if he will make a statement. [41466]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the creation of UN Women. Baroness Verma represented the UK at the official launch of UN Women on 24 February in New York, and had discussions with Michelle Bachelet, its executive director, beforehand to underline DFID's support. DFID's long-term funding commitments to UN Women will depend on a strategic plan that sets out a clear results framework outlining targets and expected impact. The strategic plan is due in June this year. In the meantime we have offered UN Women transitional funding and a secondment to allow them to set out the strongest possible plans for their work.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Counter-terrorism

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of his Department's counter-terrorism budget is allocated to Afghanistan. [41676]

Alistair Burt: Counter-terrorism (CT) is one of the Government's top priorities at home and abroad, with resources devoted by all relevant Departments. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) counter-terrorism and radicalisation programme is part of wider Government spending on counter terrorism.

Our overseas CT priorities are driven by a comprehensive analysis across Government of the threat to the UK and our interests. We are rigorous in ensuring that our CT priorities and projects reflect current analysis of the threat. This means our spending, and our intensive diplomatic efforts, are concentrated in countries and regions such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and East Africa. Given the sensitive nature of our CT activities, however, we cannot provide details of budgets allocated to activity in particular countries.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* counter-narcotics and *(b)* rule of law programmes in Afghanistan which was allocated to (i) capital and (ii) current expenditure in each year from 2000-01 to 2011-12. [40130]

Mr Hague: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

BBC World Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely savings to accrue from the BBC World Service ceasing all radio broadcasting in the *(a)* Azeri, *(b)* Mandarin Chinese, *(c)* Russian, *(d)* Spanish for Cuba, *(e)* Turkish, *(f)* Vietnamese and *(g)* Ukrainian services. [41674]

Mr Jeremy Browne: These decisions were made by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service in accordance with their managerial independence, as set out in the Broadcasting Agreement between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the BBC World Service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office therefore does not have the figures for the likely savings from the cessation of these short-wave services.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations on the planned changes to BBC World Service funding have been received *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* by diplomatic posts overseas to date. [42044]

Mr Bellingham: Between 26 January and 15 February 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office received 35 letters from members of the public and MPs about the proposed changes to the BBC World Service and its funding. There have also been 17 written parliamentary questions and one oral question, in addition to the urgent question in the House of Commons and the statement by Lord Howell in the House of Lords. The Foreign Affairs Committee have announced that they will be holding an enquiry into the BBC World Service in March.

There is no central note of representations received at posts overseas, and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Burundi: Politics and Government

Eric Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on *(a)* the number of Burundian opposition leaders in exile and *(b)* their potential return to Burundi. [41669]

Mr Lidington: The UK works closely with EU and other diplomatic missions to discuss regularly the political situation in Burundi. In the context of the ongoing preparation of the 5th report of Burundi's Peace-Building Framework, the UK and EU diplomatic missions have emphasised the importance of a dialogue being established between the Government and the extra-parliamentary opposition, including those parties whose leaders have left the country. We understand that five leaders of opposition parties left Burundi after the elections.

Burundi: Reconstruction

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to support the post-conflict reconstruction process in Burundi in respect of opportunities for *(a)* demobilised soldiers and *(b)* unemployed young people. [41469]

Mr Lidington: The UK has provided strong political and programme support to post-conflict reconstruction in Burundi since the end of the civil war in 2003. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has worked closely with the international community to support Burundi in it's return to stability. The UK's aid is currently focused on health, education, access to justice and Burundi's integration into the East African Community. We have engaged closely with the Government of Burundi and international partners in the context of discussions in the UN Security Council, the UN Peace-Building Commission and ongoing in-country dialogue to ensure that the principal hurdles to building a lasting peace are addressed, including the reintegration of demobilised soldiers and actions to improve the employment prospects of unemployed young people.

The Anglican Archbishop of Burundi recently praised the support of the British Government for their engagement.

Council of Europe

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government was represented at the inaugural meeting of high-level policy planners from member states at the Council of Europe held on 10 February 2011; and what his position is on the matters discussed. [41906]

Mr Lidington: I welcome this initiative by the Council of Europe to bring together the senior planners from Council of Europe member states for informal discussions and a sharing of ideas. The meeting was organised by the new Council of Europe directorate of policy planning to consider the political, social, economic and cultural changes taking place in Europe and their impact on the strategic mission of the Council of Europe. The Government were represented by Alison Kemp, head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office policy unit.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's priorities are for the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from November 2011 to May 2012; if the Government will use the chairmanship to promote reform of the Council of Europe; and if he will make a statement. [41907]

Mr Lidington: No decisions have been taken yet on UK priorities and objectives for our forthcoming chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The UK is a strong supporter of Secretary-General Jagland's ongoing programme of reform of the organisation.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner has met *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [41908]

Mr Lidington: The Council of Europe's European Commissioner for Human Rights met one Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister and two senior FCO officials in 2008. The United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe exchanges views every three months with the Commissioner and other Permanent Representatives in the context of the Commissioner's presentations of his quarterly reports to the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the Government's contributions to the Council of Europe and its related institutions in each of the next five years. [41909]

Mr Lidington: Budget negotiations for 2012 and beyond have not started. The Government are committed to ensuring budget efficiency in international institutions and will be active in the negotiations. The need to reduce public spending domestically will be reflected in our negotiating position.

Counter-terrorism

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's programme expenditure on counter-terrorism measures in real terms in each year from 2000-01 to 2011-12. [40126]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation programme is part of wider Government spending on counter terrorism. Within the framework provided by Contest, it focuses on overseas interventions, including building capacity overseas to help counter the risks to the UK and UK interests from international terrorism.

The FCO's programme expenditure on counter terrorism increased in real terms each year between 2003-04 and 2009-10, except in 2006-07, as seen in the following table. Comparisons with financial years before 2003-04 are not possible because a separate programme budget for counter terrorism did not exist until 2003-04.

The current budget of £38 million will be sustained in cash terms for 2011-12, so we are forecasting a slight real terms decrease in expenditure. This will be managed through greater efficiency and a tighter focus in the programme. The FCO is playing its part in reducing the public expenditure deficit, and is ensuring its expenditure on this priority for the UK is spent in an efficient and focused way.

£

Financial year	*Cash terms*	*Real terms*
2003-04	3,336,832	3,336,832
2004-05	6,990,298	6,801,224
2005-06	7,756,168	7,412,218
2006-07	7,200,000	6,657,037
2007-08	16,300,000	14,650,327
2008-09	35,200,000	30,784,777
2009-10	37,854,164	32,565,437
2010-11[1]	38,000,000	31,707,951
2011-12[1]	38,000,000	30,934,586

[1] Figures for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are forecasts, based on budgets for these financial years.

Actual expenditure on counter terrorism programmes has been converted into 2003-04 prices using the HM Treasury deflator.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40284]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker) on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 853W.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 156W, on departmental pay, if he will provide the information requested in respect of the London living wage. [39644]

Alistair Burt: Information relating to sub-contractor pay rates is not centrally held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The provision of information relating to the number of sub-contractor staff who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations his Department introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42076]

Alistair Burt: Regulations are a specific type of statutory instrument. They are very rarely sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The FCO sponsored the following Orders in Council, however, which were introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011:

The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution (Interim Amendment) (Amendment) Order 2010 (Date Made: 15 December 2010)

The Geneva Conventions (Overseas Territories) Order 2010 (Date Made: 15 December 2010)

The Iran (United Nations Sanctions) (Amendment) Order 2010 (Date Made: 15 December 2010).

Departmental Responsibilities

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who in his Department is responsible for long-term planning and strategy on Middle East policy. [41782]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, supported by myself as Minister for the Middle East, has overall responsibility for this area of policy, drawing on advice from officials including the political director and the director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Developing Countries: Sexuality

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department has allocated to its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender programme in 2010-11; and how many people work on policy areas associated with the programme. [41819]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In 2010-11 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contributed £35,989 to a one-year Council of Europe study on the extent of homophobia and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in the Council of Europe member states. This was drawn from a centrally held budget of £18.3 million from 2008 to 2011 for global projects that support and promote a broad range of human rights issues.

The FCO has one desk officer within its Human Rights and Democracy Department who leads on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people as part of a broader portfolio of work. As human rights are integrated across the FCO, country specific desk officers also work on human rights issues, including those related to discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as they arise. We also encourage UK missions overseas to seek out appropriate opportunities to promote human rights and prevent discrimination on any grounds, including due to sexual orientation or gender identity. Posts have discretion to use their own funds to promote these rights through hosting events, working with non-governmental organisations, or supporting local activities. We do not hold a central record of their expenditure on such activity.

Egypt: Elections

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact Ministers and officials of his Department have had with the Government of Egypt since the parliamentary elections in that country in 2010. [39910]

Mr Hague: The first round of Egyptian parliamentary elections was held on 28 November 2010 and the second round was held on 5 December 2010.

I travelled to Cairo on 4 November 2010, where I held talks with Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit. I also met three leading figures in the ruling National Democratic Party.

The Minister for Communication, Culture and the Creative Industries, my hon. Friend the Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizey), met his Egyptian counterpart in December 2010.

I met the Minister for Education, Dr Ahmed Zaki Badr, as did the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), at an Education World Forum reception at Lancaster House on the evening of 10 January 2011.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to President Mubarak by telephone on 29 January 2011, Prime Minister Shafiq on 1 February and Vice President Suleiman on 7 February 2011. On 15 February 2011, he spoke to Egypt's interim leader Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi.

I spoke to the Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit by telephone on 30 January 2011, 6 February 2011 and again on 13 February 2011. I also spoke to Prime Minister Shafiq on 13 February 2011.

The Minister responsible for the Middle East and North Africa, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), spoke to the Egyptian ambassador on 13 December 2010 and has been in regular contact with the Egyptian ambassador throughout the period of unrest in Egypt.

Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and our Embassy in Cairo have met or spoken to Egyptian officials on a frequent basis as part of our normal working relationships.

In our dealings with the Government of Egypt, Ministers and officials consistently raised concerns about human rights and governance issues and urged the Egyptian Government to lift the state of emergency. Following the November 2010 election, we raised concerns about allegations of vote-rigging and fraud at official and ministerial level in both London and Cairo.

Egypt: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the recent use by the Government of Egypt of military list equipment sold to it by UK companies; and if he will make a statement. [39338]

Alistair Burt: We are not aware of any UK supplied military equipment being used in the recent unrest. However, as with all conflict situations, as a precautionary measure the Government are urgently reviewing all existing applications and those export licences which have already been issued. With immediate effect we revoked three licences, on the basis that they were no longer in line with the criteria. We are in the process of making further assessments.

We are closely monitoring developments, and will take into account the prevailing circumstances when considering export licence applications. All cases are rigorously assessed case-by-case under the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria which, inter alia, make clear we will not issue licences which will aggravate existing tensions or conflicts in the country of destination, or if there is a clear risk that the export will be used for internal repression.

Egypt: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent change of government in Egypt on the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement; and if he will make a statement. [R] [41792]

Alistair Burt: Egypt has played an important role in the Middle East peace process and its peace agreement with Israel is vital to regional stability. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, there is now a precious moment of opportunity for the people of Egypt to achieve a stable and democratic future. Field Marshal Tantawi has publicly committed to maintain good relations with Israel and we welcome the statement by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces on 12 February 2011 that Egypt would abide by all its regional and international treaty obligations.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has prepared a policy to deal with any assumption of power by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. [41383]

Alistair Burt: We have been clear that the political process in Egypt must be broad-based and include opposition figures to produce real political change. The Muslim Brotherhood is one part of the mosaic of political voices in Egypt and our embassy in Cairo has previously had contact with its members in their positions as elected representatives in the Egyptian parliament. We will continue to have contacts with those members of the Muslim Brotherhood who are, or who are likely to be, part of the political dialogue process in Egypt and who have agreed to operate within that process.

However, the Muslim Brotherhood has been consistent in its statements that it does not seek power and will not be putting up a presidential candidate in the elections.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the likely effect on Egypt-Israel relations of the efforts by the Government of Egypt to open dialogue with *(a)* the Muslim Brotherhood and *(b)* other opposition groups. [41634]

Alistair Burt: Egypt is an influential country in the middle east and has played an important role in the Middle East Peace Process as one of only two countries to have a peace agreement with Israel. We hope that Egypt will continue to play a constructive role in the region and maintain good relations with both its neighbours and the wider international community, including the UK. Field Marshal Tantawi has committed to maintain good relations with Israel and we welcome the statement by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces on 12 February 2011 that Egypt would abide by all its regional and international treaty obligations. This is a positive sign of Egypt's continued commitment to peace with Israel.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, we continue to press the Egyptian Government to give opposition groups a real role in the reform process, through a genuinely broad-based dialogue. The Egyptian Government have begun that dialogue and, as part of it, have met the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and other opposition groups who are an important part of Egypt's national political mosaic.

Embassies

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of appointing honorary consuls in capitals where there is no UK diplomatic representation. [41423]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We make decisions on where to appoint honorary consuls on the basis of our priority of providing high quality consular support to British nationals. In the first instance we consider factors such as the number of British nationals in the area, or the possibility of a crisis affecting British nationals there. This could lead to the appointment of an honorary consul in a capital without diplomatic representation. Our consular regional directors are in the process of reviewing our honorary consul network, to ensure we have honorary consuls in the right places.

European Union Bill

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the administrative costs to his Department of preparing the European Union Bill. [40123]

Mr Hague: The estimated administrative cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of preparing the European Union Bill is £195,000. This figure comprises the estimated staff costs and administrative costs incurred by those officials engaged full-time to prepare the Bill for publication, and the costs charged to the FCO by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for the same purpose.

Both the assembly of a team of officials and the use of the services of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, for which a charge is made, are standard practice for Whitehall Departments preparing a Bill. However, no additional Government staff have been employed to develop the EU Bill, so there has been no increase in Government spending overall as a result of its development.

Human Rights

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's budget for human rights training and associated programmes will be in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [41645]

Mr Jeremy Browne *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* As announced in the written ministerial statement of 1 February 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will spend £5 million on a human rights and democracy programme in 2011-12. This programme is dedicated specifically to supporting human rights projects. However there are a number of other FCO programmes that contribute to the achievement of our human rights objectives. These include: a new fund of £5 million to address the underlying governance and social, economic and political participation issues affecting the Arab world; a £7 million programme in the Overseas Territories; £3.5 million to support the work of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy; £17 million for scholarships; and £19 million for bilateral programmes.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will provide details of programme spending for future years in due course together with further information about how the FCO will ensure that these funds provide the best possible value for the public money.

Separate to programme budgets, the FCO provides in-depth training to its staff on human rights to ensure they are able to deliver our human rights objectives. In 2011-12 £68,000 has been allocated for this training and is reviewed on an annual basis.

India: Intelligence Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to establish intelligence exchange with officials in the Indian Government. [41748]

Alistair Burt: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters relating to intelligence or national security.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to support *(a)* inter-faith dialogue and *(b)* the efforts of Muslim civil society organisations to counter extremism and to promote pluralism in Indonesia. [41992]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have worked closely with the Indonesian Government and civil society organisations in recent years to support inter-faith dialogue in Indonesia. We have strong links to Muhammadiya and Nahdlatul Ulama, two of the largest independent Islamic organisations in the world, who are working to counter extremism and promote pluralism. We have funded research into religious tolerance trends in the country and are currently supporting community radio stations who are working to give a voice to the mainstream moderate majority and disseminate values of tolerance and respect for fundamental freedoms. We are also supporting efforts to counter extremism in schools across Java.

We, along with our EU partners, will continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia and press the authorities to ensure the rights of all religious minorities.

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to raise the recent violent attacks on Ahmadiyyas and Christians in Indonesia with the Indonesian authorities; and if he will urge the Indonesian Government to ensure protection for religious minorities, to promote Indonesia's tradition of pluralism and religious freedom, and to prosecute the perpetrators of violence against minorities. [41994]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We regularly raise human rights issues, including freedom of religion, with the Government of Indonesia both bilaterally and through the EU. On 11 February 2011 our chargé d'affaires raised the recent attacks against the Ahmadiyya community and Christian churches in Central Java, with senior officials at the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We stressed the need for a full investigation into the events and the importance of ensuring that those responsible be held to account.

The EU issued a statement on 8 February 2011 which echoed the concerns expressed elsewhere, including by the Indonesian President, and emphasised the need for an effective response.

We, along with our EU partners, will continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia and press the authorities to ensure the rights of all religious minorities.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the monetary value and number of EU-funded projects demolished by Israeli Defence Forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the last three years. [39862]

Alistair Burt: We do not have figures on the value and number of EU-funded projects demolished by the Israeli Defence Forces during this period.

Middle East: International Assistance

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to coexistence projects between Israelis and Palestinians in 2010; and what proportion of UK aid to Israel and the Palestinian territories in that year this represented. [41290]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the response from my noble Friend Lord Wallace of Saltaire to the noble Lord Janner of Braunstone on 7 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA26.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the EU provided to aid and promote joint business initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians in 2010; and what proportion of EU aid to Israel and the Palestinian territories in that year this represented. [41292]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the response from my noble Friend Lord Wallace of Saltaire to the noble Lord Janner of Braunstone on 7 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA27.

Nigeria: Fraud

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of money scams emanating from Nigeria. [41749]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has taken proactive steps via information on its website to alert British nationals about the dangers of internet fraud, money and romance scams which originate in west Africa. The Serious Crime Agency (SOCA) is engaged with partners across the region to target mass marketing fraud which impacts on the United Kingdom.

North Korea: South Korea

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* US and *(b)* South Korean counterparts on the response to attacks by North Korea on South Korea. [41750]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea following the attacks last year. We work closely with South Korea, both in the UN and in Seoul. We also regularly discuss North Korea with US

Government representatives in Washington and Seoul. We have made clear our strong support for a process which involves building trust and confidence between North and South Korea. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the building of illegal settlements. [42225]

Alistair Burt: Our view is that all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is illegal and an obstacle to peace. It also threatens to make a two state solution impossible in the future. While visiting the region in January, I saw the impact of the occupation, including settlements, on Palestinian people.

We understand the depth of Israeli security concerns. But, as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has consistently stressed, in public and in private, we are very disappointed that Israel has not renewed the freeze on settlement construction. The Foreign Secretary discussed these issues most recently with Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman on 24 January 2011 in London.

We continue to call on the Government of Israel to take all necessary steps to prevent settlement construction.

Pakistan: Deaths

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on the death of Salmaan Taseer. [41751]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made a statement of condemnation following the death of Governor Taseer. The Foreign Secretary has also written to President Zardari to express his condolences. I spoke to the Pakistan Minister for Minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, on 10 January 2011 to express the UK's support for a democratic Pakistan, and of the importance of ensuring that the rights and freedoms of all Pakistanis are upheld, a position I reiterated to the Pakistan high commissioner on 31 January 2011. My noble Friend Baroness Warsi also made these points to the speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly when they met on 17 January 2011.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater political stability in Pakistan following the death of Salman Taseer. [41437]

Alistair Burt: The murder of Governor Taseer was a shocking event. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement condemning the act, and has written to President Zardari to express his condolences. Since Mr Taseer's death I have spoken to the Pakistan Minister for Minorities to highlight our concerns about the potential for the misuse of the blasphemy laws to undermine religious tolerance in Pakistan. Baroness Warsi also raised this with the Speaker of the National Assembly on 17 January.

Pakistan is one of the UK's highest priorities. We are working with the Government of Pakistan to strengthen and deepen our relationship through an enhanced strategic dialogue which was announced by the Prime Minister and President Zardari on 6 August 2010. The Department for International Development has a £665 million four-year development assistance programme, which includes support for education, economic growth and governance.

Ministers and senior officials engage regularly at a senior level with Pakistani interlocutors from all parties to highlight the importance of democratic and economic stability for Pakistan, including through the development of a national consensus on economic reform.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* technical and *(b)* military assistance his Department is providing to the Government of Pakistan. [41440]

Alistair Burt: Pakistan is one of the UK's highest priorities. We are working with the Government of Pakistan to strengthen and deepen our relationship through an enhanced strategic dialogue, which was announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Zardari on 6 August 2010.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, draws on the tri-departmental Conflict Fund and Bilateral Programme Fund to provide assistance focusing on promoting human rights, institution-building and capacity building. Under the Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Fund, the FCO is working with the Government of Pakistan and their agencies at both federal and provincial levels to provide support and technical assistance that enables us to jointly tackle the threat from terrorism.

Palestinians: Police

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to the European Union Police Mission in the Palestinian territories in connection with training for the Palestinian police in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the level of such funding to be provided by his Department in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012. [41298]

Mr Lidington: Funding for common costs of the European Union Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS), is met from the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy budget, which is itself part of the overall EU budget. The following table takes the estimated UK contribution pre-abatement to the EU budget as a whole, and applies it to the EUPOL COPPS budget to give an approximate indication of UK funding.

		Indicative UK contribution	
Budget period	*EUPOL COPPS budget (€)*	*Percentage*	*(€) (nearest 10,000)*
2008	6,000,000	14.8	890,000
2009	7,000,000	14.5	1,020,000
2010	6,900,000	14.7	1,010,000
2011	8,250,000	15.0	1,240,000

EUPOL COPPS is currently mandated until 31 December 2011. Decisions on future budget levels will be made during discussions on the Mission's future mandate.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials sponsored by his Department participated in the European Union Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories in connection with training of the Palestinian police in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what plans he has for he number of such participants in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012. [41300]

Mr Lidington: The UK continues strongly to support the work of the European Union Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories, (EUPOL COPPS). The mission plays an important role in the international community's efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Palestinian Authority's police and wider rule of law institutions.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office employs technical experts mainly from the Stabilisation Unit's pools of civilian and police experts to work in EUPOL COPPS. The number of UK secondees fluctuates across the year due to tour dates, EU recruitment cycles and the selection of UK applicants by the mission. This is shown in the following table.

	Number of UK secondees
2008	2-3
2009	1-2
2010	3-4
2011	2-3

Note:
Figures for 2011 cover only January to March since detailed allocations among the various projects funded by the tri-departmental Conflict Pool for the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been published. They will, however, be announced by written ministerial statement in the next few weeks.

Palestinians: Security Forces

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department plans to provide to assist the US Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian territories in the training of Palestinian security forces in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [41299]

Alistair Burt: The Tri-Departmental (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development) Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool (MENA CP) funds the deployment of the British Support Team in Ramallah, to assist the US Security Coordinator in providing technical support and advice on governance, leadership and human rights issues to the Palestinian Security Sector, including the Civil Police, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice. Management of the British Support Team is led by the UK Ministry of Defence.

MENA CP funding per financial year is as follows:

2007-08: £347,474
2008-09: £1,925,610
2009-10: £2,690,823
2010-11: £2,450,000.

Final funding for 2010-11 is not confirmed and is based on the provisional allocation. Funding for the 2011-12 financial year has yet to be confirmed, however financial support through the MENA CP will continue for the deployment of the British Support Team.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British officials assisted the US Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the training of Palestinian security forces in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the number of such officials providing such assistance in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012. [41301]

Nick Harvey: I have been asked to reply.

The following number of British personnel formed the British Support Team which assisted the US Security Co-ordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

	Number
2008-09	13
2009-10	15
2010-11	17
2011-12	[1]12

[1] Estimate.

Press Freedom

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote the development of free and independent media in *(a)* Russia, *(b)* China, *(c)* Afghanistan and *(d)* Pakistan. [42047]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have continuing concerns about media freedom in Russia. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the unresolved murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya with Foreign Minister Lavrov on 15 February 2010. During the annual UK-Russia Human Rights Consultations in Moscow on 18 January 2010 we expressed concern about the low success rate in prosecuting perpetrators of assaults on journalists. We supported EU High Representative Baroness Ashton's statement on 17 November 2010 regarding assaults on journalists in Russia. In addition, we fund the work of the independent media agency Caucasian Knot which provides balanced and objective online reporting of news from across the Caucasus region. We will continue to raise issues relating to freedom of expression with Russia both bilaterally and with our EU partners.

We remain concerned about limits on freedom of expression in China. The Foreign Secretary raised the case of imprisoned author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo during his discussions with Chinese Vice-Premier Li in January. We continue to call for his release. During the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 13 January 2010 we raised our concerns about freedom of the media, citing cases of foreign journalists who have come under pressure from China for their reporting, and the blocking of some international and domestic websites. We will continue to work bilaterally and with the EU to raise our concerns.

The Government's support for free and independent media in Afghanistan includes supporting the development of the Government Media and Information Centre, which has improved the Afghan Government's relationship and interaction with the independent media, as well as providing training in practical skills to members of the independent media. This support has also been replicated at provincial level in Helmand, through building the Governor's communications capacity. We have provided funding of £837,570 for projects to support Afghan independent media to develop their infrastructure and content. We continue to monitor Afghan media freedom and work with the Afghan Government and international partners to ensure the free and independent media in Afghanistan is protected and strengthened according to the Constitution and Afghan law.

In 2010 media freedom in Pakistan continued to improve, though there were several high profile cases where journalists were attacked by unknown assailants. Several journalists were also killed in the border areas in terrorist incidents. Constitutional reforms passed last year include a new article which guarantees the right of every citizen to freedom of information. This was partly influenced by a UK-funded project to promote the value of improved freedom of information in support of better governance. We work closely with the Ministry for Information to support their work to formulate a freedom of information law by discussing the UK experience of such legislation. Where necessary we have lobbied at senior levels against media restrictions.

Southern Africa: Human Rights

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps to increase his Department's monitoring of human rights abuses in southern Africa. [42813]

Mr Bellingham: The Government work closely with partners to monitor human rights abuses and are committed to working to address them wherever they arise including in southern Africa. In the last year we have raised a wide range of human rights issues; for example lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in Malawi and the situation of the San (Bushmen) in Botswana. Zimbabwe continues to be of concern regarding human rights and we work closely with human rights organisations to monitor human rights abuses in that country. In the past year, the UK has actively participated in the UN's Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situations in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia and Sao Tome and Principe. Given this coverage, we have no plans to increase monitoring further.

Thailand: Cambodia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with his Thai and Cambodian counterparts on resolving disputed border area territories through negotiation and other peaceful means. [41422]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have been concerned by the outbreak of fighting on the Cambodia-Thai border and deeply regret the loss of life on both sides. We have urged both Governments to exercise restraint and to resolve the dispute through peaceful means. On 5 February our ambassador to Thailand met Thai Foreign Minister, Kasit Piromya and on 7 and 11 February our ambassador to Cambodia met Cambodian Foreign Minister, Hor Namhong, to discuss the dispute.

The UN Security Council met the Thai and Cambodian Foreign Ministers and the Indonesian Foreign Minister and Chair of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Marty Natalegawa, at a private session on 14 February. The UN Security Council made a press statement following that meeting, expressing its concern. It called on both sides to exercise restraint, to establish a permanent ceasefire and to resolve the situation through effective dialogue. The members of the UN Security Council expressed support for the active efforts of ASEAN and encouraged the parties to continue to co-operate with ASEAN in this regard.

Tunisia: EU Immigration

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Italian counterpart the potential effects of the number of Tunisian migrants arriving in Italy on other EU member states. [42342]

Mr Lidington: We support collective efforts to secure the EU's frontiers and recognise the important role of FRONTEX (the EU external borders agency) in assisting the Italian Government. We note that recent actions taken by the Tunisian authorities may have helped stem the tide of migrants, at least temporarily. EU cooperation on this issue is key, and so it has been discussed both by EU Foreign Ministers at the Foreign Affairs Council on 21 February and by EU Interior Ministers at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 24-25 February.

Union for the Mediterranean: Finance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the Government have made to the Union for the Mediterranean since its creation. [42797]

Mr Lidington: The Government have made no bilateral financial contribution to the Union for the Mediterranean and has not seconded staff to work at the Secretariat. However, we have contributed to the budget of the Secretariat through the European Union budget. The European Union funded the full costs of the Secretariat's interim budget for May-December 2010 (€780,000) and is expected to fund up to €3 million of the agreed budget for 2011 (€6.25 million). The remaining costs will be met by bilateral donations from Union for the Mediterranean member states.

Given the political difficulties faced by the Union for the Mediterranean, in particular those linked to the Middle East Peace Process, we have pressed for a focus on technical co-operation. We have insisted that the Secretariat be a small, project-focused body and we have encouraged the Secretariat to identify new sources of finance outside the EU budget, especially from private commercial sources.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the EU lifted restrictions on 35 people formerly affected by asset freezes and visa bans in Zimbabwe. [42343]

Mr Bellingham: The decision by EU member states to remove 35 people from the list of those affected by its Restrictive Measures on Zimbabwe follows an in-depth assessment of the situation in Zimbabwe. 163 people and 31 economic entities remain subject to the measures for a further 12 months unless all 27 member states unanimously agree to any further relaxation.

The 35 people removed from the list comprise three dead, seven spouses, nine former Ministers, eight miscellaneous officials and eight minor ZANU Politburo members. These people were initially included by virtue of their marriage or their position in a pre-Government of National Unity government and have now been removed on the grounds that they are no longer involved in human rights abuses or undermining democracy or the rule of law.

We have always said that we will be guided by progress on the ground in Zimbabwe. Since we last reviewed the restrictive measures in February 2010 the Government of Zimbabwe has continued to make progress on economic issues and in delivering public services. However this has not been matched by equivalent political and democratic reform and we are particularly concerned at the recent upsurge in politically motivated intimidation and violence. This has prevented us from agreeing to any more substantial amendments.

However, we and our EU partners have emphasised our willingness to revisit the measures at any time should there be further concrete developments on the ground in Zimbabwe. In this context, we fully support the Southern African Development Community and its member states in their effort to facilitate agreement among the parties in Zimbabwe on creating an environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections.

TRANSPORT

Air Routes: Glasgow

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has discussed with BMI the future of the Glasgow to London Heathrow route; [39390]

(2) what discussions he has had with BAA on the future of direct flights by BMI between Glasgow and Heathrow. [39785]

Mrs Villiers: I met Mr Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, the chief executive officer of BMI, on 6 September 2010; we discussed a range of issues including the structure of airport charges at Heathrow and domestic air services, but not specifically the future of BMI's Glasgow service.

The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has also discussed this issue with the Scottish Transport Secretary (Keith Brown) on 10 February.

Departmental Meetings: Aviation

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of *(a)* airlines and *(b)* pilots since May 2010. [39784]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers in the Department frequently meet representatives of airlines and pilots. Details of all ministerial meetings with external organisations between May and September 2010 have been published on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/ministers/transparency/

Information for October 2010 to 31 December 2010 is being collated and will be released as soon as it is practical to do so.

Recent meetings with representatives of airlines and pilots include:

A meeting chaired by the Secretary of State for Transport involving airlines and freight cargo companies on 4 November following an air cargo security incident.

The Minister of State for Transport chaired a National Aviation Security Committee on 29 November. This included representatives from the British Airline Pilots Association.

The Minister of State for Transport also chairs regular meetings of the South East Airports Taskforce, which includes representations of BA, Virgin, easyJet and Ryanair. The most recent was held on 17 January.

Aviation: Holidays

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of British holiday-makers in each of the next two years who would *(a)* be eligible to claim within the scope of the proposed new Air Travel Organisers' Licensing insurance scheme and *(b)* not be eligible to claim within the scope of the proposed new scheme; [40727]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of UK holiday-makers who purchased their holiday via a click-through arrangement. [40728]

Mrs Villiers: The term 'click-through' arrangement is used to describe a wide range of ways to purchase a holiday. Determining the number of holidays which could possibly be described as 'click-throughs' would be difficult and the Department for Transport has not made such an estimate.

Aviation: Pilots

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in one day. [38873]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority's policy is set out in its publication CAP 371: The Avoidance of Fatigue In Aircrews—Guide to Requirements. Airlines are required to have flight and duty time schemes which ensure that crew members are adequately rested at the beginning of each flying duty period so that they can perform at a satisfactory level of efficiency and safety in all normal and abnormal circumstances arising during flying.

Aviation: Safety

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of pilot fatigue on flight safety. [39680]

Mrs Villiers: We recognise that pilot fatigue can impact on aviation safety. UK airlines are therefore required to have robust flight time limitation schemes to prevent the onset of fatigue. These have to be approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

In addition, the CAA reviews all available information, including newly available research, on the effects of fatigue in aviation and maintains an advisory group with its stakeholders to discuss the effect of crew fatigue on aviation safety.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on flight time limitations for pilots; and if he will make a statement. [39682]

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in one day. [39755]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority's policy is set out in its publication CAP 371: The Avoidance of Fatigue in Aircrews—Guide to Requirements. Airlines are required to have flight and duty time schemes which ensure that crew members are adequately rested at the beginning of each flying duty period so that they can perform at a satisfactory level of efficiency and safety in all normal and abnormal circumstances arising during flying.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the European Aviation Safety Agency on the Notice of Proposed Amendment to flight time limitations. [39683]

Mrs Villiers: None. The European Aviation Safety Agency published the Notice of Proposed Amendment on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals.

Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines. If the CAA review identifies any areas of significant concern we will discuss these with EASA at the earliest opportunity.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what implications the implementation of the provisions of the European Union Bill will have for the transfer of authority over flight time limitations from the Civil Aviation Authority to the European Aviation Safety Agency. [39754]

Mrs Villiers: None. The EU already has competence in this area.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he intends to respond to the European Aviation Safety Agency's Notice of Proposed Amendment for flight time limitations; [39756]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's Notice of Proposed Amendment for flight time limitations. [39757]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals contained in the Notice of Proposed Amendment. We will respond to the European Aviation Safety Agency once the CAA has completed that review. Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had at the Council of Ministers level on *(a)* the European Aviation Safety Agency and *(b)* flight time limitations. [39783]

Mrs Villiers: None. The European Aviation Safety Agency published draft legislation for consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals.

Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines. If necessary we will discuss the legislation with our European counterparts at an appropriate stage in the legislative process.

Aviation: Security

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that air crew representatives are members of each airport security committee. [41508]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is supportive of the general principle that airport security committees should have a broad representation by those parties involved in the delivery of aviation security. However, the final decision on the composition of the committees falls to the airport operator.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on membership of airport security committees for air crew representatives. [42059]

Mrs Villiers: I have received representations on this subject from the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) suggesting that members should participate in airport security committees. The Department for Transport is supportive of the general principle that airport security committees should have a broad representation by those parties involved in the delivery of aviation security. However, the final decision on the composition of the committees falls to the airport operator.

Aviation: Working Hours

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effects of pilot fatigue on flight safety. [39851]

Mrs Villiers: We recognise that pilot fatigue can impact on aviation safety. UK airlines are therefore required to have robust flight time limitation schemes to prevent the onset of fatigue. These have to be approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

In addition, the CAA reviews all available information, including newly available research, on the effects of fatigue in aviation and maintains an advisory group with its stakeholders to discuss the effect of crew fatigue on aviation safety.

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on flight time limitations for pilots. [39852]

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on flight time limitations for pilots; and if he will make a statement. [40306]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority's policy is set out in its publication CAP 371: The Avoidance of Fatigue In Aircrews—Guide to Requirements. Airlines are required to have flight and duty time schemes which ensure that crew members are adequately rested at the beginning of each flying duty period so that they can perform at a satisfactory level of efficiency and safety in all normal and abnormal circumstances arising during flying.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on safety of replacing the Civil Aviation Authority's CAP371 Flight Time Limitations with the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposal. [40304]

Mrs Villiers: The European Aviation Safety Agency published draft legislation for consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals. It will respond to the consultation once it has completed its review. Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the European Aviation Safety Agency on the Notice of Proposed Amendment to Flight Time Limitations in the last 12 months. [40305]

Mrs Villiers: None. The European Aviation Safety Agency published the Notice of Proposed Amendment on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals.

Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines. If the CAA review identifies any areas of significant concern we will discuss these with EASA at the earliest opportunity.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on pilot fatigue in the last 10 years. [40307]

Mrs Villiers: In the last 10 years the Civil Aviation Authority has commissioned:

a study to investigate the fatigue implications of 12-hour shift patterns operated by police helicopter crews;

a study into in-flight napping strategies; and

continuing studies into sleep patterns which have lead to revisions of CAP 371, "The Avoidance of Fatigue in Aircrews" and the development of the System for Aircrew Fatigue Evaluation (SAFE) computer model. SAFE is used by the CAA to evaluate Flight Time Limitation scheme submissions by operators.

Biofuels

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to support the development of the bioethanol sector. [42989]

Norman Baker: The Government support the development of a sustainable biofuels industry, including bioethanol, through the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO). The RTFO requires fossil fuel suppliers over a certain size to supply a specified percentage of renewable fuel. Further information on the RTFO is available at:

www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment his Department *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make of likely alterations to (i) rural and (ii) other bus services arising from changes to the funding of (A) Bus Service Operators Grant, (B) the concessionary fares scheme and (C) local government; [39285]

(2) what steps he plans to take to monitor the effects of reductions in public funding on the service level of *(a)* supported bus services supported by local authorities and *(b)* other bus services; [39286]

(3) if he will assess the effects of reductions in the level of public expenditure on the provision of local subsidised travel schemes. [39288]

Norman Baker: 78% of bus services are provided by operators on a commercial basis. The Department for Transport supports these services, including those operating in rural areas, through Bus Service Operators Grant, the funding for which has been maintained in its entirety for 2011-12.

With regard to monitoring the impact of changes in bus subsidy, concessionary travel reimbursement or local authority funding, this cannot be done in isolation. Any changes to the level of services, the cost of bus fares, or the number of deregistrations will reflect wider influences, including commercial decisions by operators and, where appropriate, local authority priorities.

The Department for Transport already publishes National Statistics on annual bus service mileage, passenger journey numbers and a local bus fares index. It plans to continue to publish these statistics in future years. The number of applications for new registrations and variations processed and accepted, and the number of registrations cancelled, is published annually in the Traffic Commissioners' Annual Report. However monitoring bus deregistrations would not be a good way of monitoring impacts in service provision, as it does not give any indication of why services have been deregistered.

I have regular discussions with the Confederation of Passenger Transport, which represents the bus industry, as well as the Local Government Association and the Passenger Transport Executive Group. They all provide a strategic overview of the impacts of any change.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40522]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has contributed to the Government Carbon Offset Fund each year since 2007-08. In years 2007-08 and 2008-09 the fund was administered by the Department for Energy and Climate Change, and no information is held by individual Departments relating to the companies to which payment was made. The Department for Transport paid £12,755.74 in 2007-08, and £13,645.24 in 2008-09.

In 2009-10 a new Government Carbon Offset Fund was introduced and under this provision Departments made payments directly to the credit providers. The payment from the Department for Transport, to EDF Energy, in 2009-10 amounted to £14,645.30.

Departmental Policy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42606]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport continues to support the Compact as it forms an integral part of our commitment for successful partnership working with civil society organisations to ensure better outcomes for communities and citizens.

In light of the renewed Compact launched in December, 2010, we have taken account of Compact principles in our policy developments to ensure we build a stronger civil society. This includes our recent Local Transport White Paper, as seen in chapter 8—'Local transport in society'.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the number of people who drive without insurance. [41745]

Mike Penning: On 4 February 2011 a new offence in Great Britain of keeping a vehicle with no insurance was introduced. Enforcement of the offence is planned to commence in the spring.

The scheme for continuous insurance enforcement (CIE) will identify uninsured vehicles by regularly comparing the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) vehicles database with the motor insurance database managed by the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

Unless a vehicle is declared off road, those who remain uninsured, in spite of warning, will receive a fixed penalty notice and fine of £100, their vehicles may be clamped and impounded and they may face prosecution by the courts.

This builds upon improvements in police enforcement, such as the use of ANPR cameras which have significantly reduced the level of uninsured driving.

Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new ultra low-emission vehicles were registered in the latest period for which figures are available. [38763]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport uses the term 'ultra-low emission vehicles' to refer to vehicles with significantly lower levels of tailpipe emissions than conventional vehicles. In practice, the term currently refers to electric, plug-in hybrid and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles.

Data from the DVLA suggests that 1,277 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles were registered in Great Britain during 2010: 268 cars, four quadricycles, 547 motorcycles, mopeds, scooters and tricycles, six buses, coaches and minibuses, and 452 commercial vehicles, including light vans. Data for hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles are currently limited.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many electric car charging points were operational in each region of England on the most recent date for which figures are available and what estimate he has made of the number in each such region that will be operational on *(a)* 31 December 2011 and *(b)* 1 May 2015. [42542]

Norman Baker: We do not have access to data on the numbers and locations of all EV charging points in the UK, many of which have been put in by businesses for use by employees or the public.

Data are available for installations made under the Government's Plugged-In Places (PIP) programme. The following table sets out data on the number of operational charge points installed by each project as part of this programme to 31 December 2010 and estimates of numbers expected to be installed by 31 March 2013, when the PIP funding ends. Forward forecasting is based on financial years so we do not have a forecast for 31 December 2011.

Project	*Points installed at 31 December 2010*	*Planned installations by 31 March 2013*
London	13	3,219
Milton Keynes	0	938
North East England	86	1,473
Midlands	—	1,713
East of England	—	858
Greater Manchester	—	305
Central Scotland	—	375
Northern Ireland	—	846

The last five projects are part of the Second Wave of PIP projects, which were awarded funding for 2011-12 and 2012-13, so could not have installed any posts by 31 December 2010.

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 825W, on Heathrow airport, what Government policies would be taken into account as material considerations in the decision of the Secretary of State for Transport on any (theoretical) application for a third runway at Heathrow airport. [40887]

Mrs Villiers: The coalition Government have made clear their opposition to a third runway at Heathrow and BAA announced in May 2010 that it had stopped work on a planning application for such a proposal.

Where a planning application is made for expansion of an airport, the relevant Government policies are taken into account as material considerations.

Lorry Drivers: Sleep Apnoea

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency provides to GPs on the identification of obstructive sleep apnoea for drivers of large commercial vehicles; and on which dates the guidance has been updated in the last 10 years. [41871]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency provides guidance to GPs in its twice yearly published 'At a Glance Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive'. Since 2008, this publication has advised GPs to refer to the 'Tiredness can Kill' leaflet for more information on obstructive sleep apnoea. This leaflet was introduced in May 2004 and was updated May 2006, November 2008, September 2009 and June 2010.

Since March 2003, guidance on obstructive sleep apnoea has also been supplied to the examining doctors of drivers of large commercial vehicles required to undergo an examination. A guidance leaflet has accompanied the medical examination since June 2004 and has been updated in March 2005, May 2006, June 2007, April 2009 and October 2010.

Obstructive sleep apnoea guidance has also been sent direct to approximately 26,500 GPs who subscribe to the Electronic Medical Information System NHS Purchasing alerts in December 2008, June 2009 and in February 2010.

M54: Staffordshire

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent on installing traffic lights at Junction 2 of the M54 (Coven Heath); [42374]

(2) how many accidents have occurred at Junction 2 of the M54 (Coven Heath) since the introduction of traffic lights at that junction. [42375]

Mike Penning: Current expenditure for the highway works at M54 Junction 2 stands at £2.9 million. There are minor defects to be rectified by the contractor, so the final account has yet to be agreed.

Validated accident data for this junction are available up until September 2010. Between the time that the traffic signals became operational in July 2010 and September 2010, there was one recorded accident at this junction. This was categorised as slight by the police.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to continue the provision of financial incentives for the purchase of ultra-low carbon cars following the end of funding for the current scheme in 2011-12. [42350]

Norman Baker: The Government have made provision of over £400 million to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies including, provision of around £300 million to support consumer incentives for the life of the Parliament.

The Government are committed to reviewing the Plug-in Car Grant to asses its effectiveness in the context of emerging market conditions. Any changes from the first review will come into place in April 2012.

Network Rail

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the technological innovation and research undertaken by Network Rail since its inception. [38593]

Mrs Villiers: No formal assessment of technological innovation and research undertaken by Network Rail has been carried out by the Department for Transport. Sir Roy McNulty, as part of his study into value for money of the rail industry, is considering these issues in detail. His interim report has highlighted critical actions on innovation as being important to achieving sustainable cost-efficiency improvements.

Railways: Construction

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the proposed connecting line between High Speed 1 and High Speed 2 is intended for use by continental-sized freight trains. [41558]

Mr Philip Hammond: There are no plans to use the proposed connecting line between High Speed 1 and the proposed High Speed 2 for continental-sized freight trains.

Railways: Fares

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response he plans to make to representations from the public on the level of rail fares. [39239]

Mrs Villiers: Following the spending review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a significant programme of investment in rail including significant rolling stock to address overcrowding on commuter services. Prioritising such investment will generate economic benefits and improve conditions for passengers.

The delivery of this major upgrade programme, together with the pressing need to tackle the deficit has forced us to take some difficult decisions on fares. We have announced that, for most operators, rises in regulated fares will be capped at RPI+1% for 2011, and at RPI+3% for the subsequent three years.

Beyond this period, securing benefits for both taxpayers and fare payers through the reduction in the cost of running the railways is a priority. Sir Roy McNulty's report on value for money, to be delivered in April 2011, will be an important step in helping us to deliver this aim.

Railways: Franchises

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 41-2W, on South Eastern Trains, and with reference to the answer of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1002-3W, on railways: franchises, for what reason the information requested by the hon. Member for Islington North cannot be disclosed on grounds of commercial confidentiality; on what date his Department adopted its policy on non-disclosure of such information; and if he will make a statement. [41230]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* The Integrated Kent Franchise was let on 29 November 2005, and contains a confidentiality agreement, specifically schedule 7.1 of the National Rail Franchise Terms.

The Department for Transport discloses details of revenue support only once the supporting calculations which drive these numbers have passed the annual audit. Southeastern entered revenue support on 1 April 2010, therefore completing a full year in this mechanism on 31 March 2011. Details of revenue support payments are available for disclosure after this point, when the information is deemed to be no longer commercially or market sensitive.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to hold to account rail franchisees who did not meet performance objectives during recent periods of severe weather. [39171]

Mrs Villiers: Train operators are held to account through their franchise contracts. Each franchise agreement sets limits on delays and cancellations. In most cases, these are based on average performance over a rolling year.

Franchise agreements provide for penalties or other remedial action to be imposed where an operator exceeds the limits set on delays and cancellations.

The Department for Transport closely monitors emerging results and discusses performance with operators on a regular basis.

Railways: Standards

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of delay minutes on Southeastern Railway services were attributed to *(a)* Network Rail, *(b)* Southeastern Railway and *(c)* other train operating companies in each of the last three years. [37994]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is shown in the following table, for the last three years for which data are held.

Delay minutes suffered by Southeastern trains: total of delays and attribution of responsibility for them

	Train delay (Minutes)				Proportion (Percentage)		
Year[1] (As at January each year)	Network Rail	Southeastern	Other operators	Total	Network Rail	Southeastern	Other operators
2008-09	401,994	313,522	63,227	778,744	52	40	8
2009-10	507,535	299,361	46,064	852,960	60	35	5
2010-11	629,322	389,949	58,484	1,077,755	58	36	5

[1] 13 four-weekly periods ending in early January each year.

Source:

Network Rail rail industry data.

Rescue Services: Liverpool

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Liverpool Coastguard Station was not included in the first draft consultation on the future of the Marine and Coastguard Agency; for what reasons it was subsequently included; and if he will make a statement. [42337]

Mike Penning: Any consultation document and sets of proposals will evolve and develop over a period of time before they are finally published. The final version of the consultation document we published on 16 December recognised that the consideration of factors between Liverpool and Belfast was finely balanced and so we decided that it would be best to allow the eventual decision to be informed by the process of consultation. The consultation document expressly invites views on the factors that should be taken into account in that decision-making process.

Roads: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his most recent estimate is of levels of grit supplies held by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local authorities; [35160]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the amount of grit used by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local authorities since 1 November 2010; [35161]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the strategic reserve of grit which has been drawn down for use by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local authorities since 1 November 2010. [35162]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* As of 17 January 2011, English local authorities held 384,889 tonnes and the Highways Agency held 124,766 tonnes of operational road de-icing salt. At the same date, 186,790 tonnes was held in the English strategic stockpile.

Overall, the amount used between 1 November 2010 and 17 January 2011 is estimated to be 963,999 tonnes. This figure consists of 150,223 tonnes used by the Highways Agency and 813,777 tonnes used by local highway authorities in England.

In estimating the amount of road de-icing salt used in England between 1 November and end January 2011, some estimation has had to be made in relation to the salt used by local authorities during November 2010.

This is because the weekly collection of stockholding data commenced at the beginning of December 2010.

As at 17 January 2011, no road de-icing salt had been drawn down from the English strategic stockpile by the Highways Agency. As of the same date, 47,605 tonnes had been drawn down by English local authorities.

Shipping: Oil

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many ship-to-ship oil transfers were recorded in each year from 2006 to 2010; [42765]

(2) how many ships gave notice of ship-to-ship oil transfers in each year from 2006 to 2010. [42766]

Mike Penning: Each application to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) can be for a single ship-to-ship oil transfer or for a series of transfers, meaning that the number of transfers can be greater than the number of applications.

In 2006

30 applications for permission to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the UK territorial sea were processed by the MCA, resulting in 52 actual ship-to-ship transfers. (Five other applications were submitted but cancelled.)

In 2007

13 applications for permission to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the UK territorial sea were processed by the MCA, resulting in 33 actual ship-to-ship transfers. (One other application was submitted but cancelled.)

In 2008

13 applications for permission to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the UK territorial sea were processed by the MCA, resulting in 17 actual ship-to-ship transfers.

In 2009

256 applications for permission to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the UK territorial sea were processed by the MCA, resulting in 344 actual ship-to-ship transfers. (52 other application were submitted but cancelled.)

In 2010

278 applications for permission to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the UK territorial sea were processed by the MCA, resulting in 370 actual ship-to-ship transfers. (45 other applications were submitted but cancelled.)

Sustainable Transport Fund

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* names and *(b)* relevant experience is of the group of independent advisors who will form part of the assessment process for bids to the sustainable transport fund. [42912]

Norman Baker: Paragraph 3.20 of the White Paper 'Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon', published on 19 January, says "we will be inviting a small panel to help us in assessing Local Sustainable Transport Fund bids."

Interested parties with experience in delivering sustainable travel measures should forward a short CV and covering letter to my Department by 11 March 2011. I then intend to select three or four individuals to assist in this process.

Taxis: Greater London

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 675-76W, on taxi licensing, who is responsible for taxi licensing in London; and whether his Department's best practice guidance extends to London. [42325]

Norman Baker: Responsibility for licensing taxis in London rests with Transport for London. The Department's Best Practice Guidance extends to London in the sense of offering assistance in formulating suitable licensing policies, but ultimately taxi licensing policies and decisions are a matter for the Mayor and TfL.

The Department's Best Practice Guidance urges licensing authorities not to set an age limit policy for taxis. Rather it suggests that they assess vehicles on an individual basis.

Transport for London has decided that it will impose an age limit on London taxis. From 2012 TfL will not license any taxis over 15 years of age.

This policy has been drawn up by the Mayor of London and TfL; they have responsibility for formulating suitable licensing policies. No doubt they have considered the advice in the Department's Best Practice Guidance but ultimately the decision is theirs to make.

Transport: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings on what dates since June 2010 *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have ~~had~~ at which winter resilience was discussed; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [28649]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 3 December 2010]*: Ministers in the Department for Transport have scheduled weekly meetings, as well as ad hoc discussions when required, to discuss departmental business. These meetings have included winter resilience issues as and when necessary.

The Secretary of State met with David Quarmby CBE, chair of the independent Winter Resilience Review, on 22 July 2010 to discuss the review's interim report prior to publication on 26 July. The Secretary of State also met with David Quarmby CBE, and his fellow panel members, Brian Smith and Chris Green, on 7 October 2010 to discuss the review's final report published on 22 October. I met with David Quarmby CBE, separately on the same day.

In light of the early and severe onset of winter, the Government asked David Quarmby CBE, in December 2010 to follow up his earlier review of winter resilience with an urgent audit of how well highway authorities and transport operators in England had coped with the severe weather between 24 November and 9 December 2010. The Secretary of State for Transport met with David Quarmby CBE, on 17 December 2010 to discuss the findings of this audit prior to the report being published on 21 December 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 420W, on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, how many items of correspondence were received by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from hon. Members in *(a)* each local authority area, *(b)* each region and *(c)* any sub-national area for which information is available (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of population in 2009-10. [40162]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2011, Official Report, column 420W, on Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, how many items of correspondence were received by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from hon. Members in (a) each local authority area, (b) each region and (c) any sub-national area for which information is available (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of population in 2009-10. [40162]

Within the appropriate cost limit we can only provide details of correspondence by the business units which deal with them. Some of these operate regionally and others, for example, those dealing with cases managed off the main system, operate nationally. The table below shows the volume of correspondence from Members of Parliament dealt with by each business unit.

Area	*Child Support Agency Centre*	*2009-10*	*Percentage of total correspondence received in 2009-10*
Midlands	Dudley	1,580	10
South East	Hastings	1,130	7
Northern	Falkirk	2,290	14
South West	Plymouth	1,370	8
North West	Birkenhead	1,480	9
Eastern	Belfast	2,770	17
National Teams	UK wide	5,900	36
Total	—	16,530	—

Notes:
1. Figures include case specific correspondence but may exclude some general correspondence.
2. Figures include MP hotline data.
3. Multiple correspondence may be received for a single issue/complaint.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Child Maintenance: Complaints

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made in respect of the *(a)* Child Support Agency and *(b)* Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [40951]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many complaints have been made in respect of the (a) Child Support Agency and (b) Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [40951]

The table below shows the number of complaints received in each of the last five years. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency on 1 November 2008. Therefore, for 2008/2009, complaints received prior to 1 November were directed to the Child Support Agency and complaints received post 1 November were directed to the Commission.

	Complaints received
2005-06	62,100
2006-07	47,900
2007-08	37,600
2008-09	27,800
2009-10	25,100

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. From April 2007, the Agency introduced a new complaints resolution process, which simplified the process from three stages to two stages.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review the calculation used by the Child Support Agency to determine levels of child maintenance entitlement. [36133]

Maria Miller: The Government have recently confirmed that a new child maintenance scheme will be introduced in 2012 in the consultation document "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" published on 13 January 2011:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf

The new scheme will make use of income data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. We will consider whether further changes are required in consultation with interested groups. Once the new child maintenance scheme has been successfully introduced, the Government intend to commence a process of phased transition of cases from Child Support Agency.

There are no plans to change the calculation rules on the two Child Support Agency schemes currently in operation.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's plans to create a single system of child support. [40871]

Maria Miller: The consultation document "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" launched on 13 January 2011 sets out details of our intended strategy for the future and a future system of child maintenance.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/strengthening-families.pdf

Chapter 3 sets out the plans to move to a single new child maintenance system.

The problems with the two existing CSA schemes, particularly those relating to the current IT system introduced in 2003, are well documented. Consequently, we propose to move to a new scheme, replacing the two current schemes and using income data from HMRC tax records, supported by a new IT system. This will support a more efficient and effective scheme for those parents who cannot reach their own family-based arrangements.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the proposals in the Green Paper, Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility, what support he plans to provide to enable separated parents to make reliable and sustainable private child maintenance arrangements which are mutually agreed; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the provision of such support in its first 12 months. [41898]

Maria Miller: The consultation document "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance", published on 13 January 2011, sets out proposals to make it easier for parents to access information and support to reach family-based arrangements that are collaborative, flexible and based around the welfare of their children. This includes examples of existing good practice by voluntary and community sector organisations as well as the child maintenance options service, both in providing and integrating services for separating and separated parents.

This is in the consultation stage and various models are being considered for the design and delivery of services to support separated families to establish effective child maintenance arrangements. It is not possible to confirm the future costs of such support until the consultation and evaluation of all the options has been considered.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding over what period he plans to provide for parents to receive help from trained, impartial advisers on child maintenance arrangements. [41899]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission currently provides information and support on child maintenance issues through its child maintenance options service at a current forecasted annual cost of £4.4 million for the contact centre and £1.2 million for the face to face delivery arm to the end of March 2011.

The recent consultation document "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" sets out proposals to make it easier for parents to access the information and support they need to reach family-based arrangements that are collaborative, flexible and based around the welfare of their children. This is in the consultation stage and various models are being considered for the design and delivery of services to support separated families to establish effective child maintenance arrangements. It is not possible to confirm the future costs of such support until the consultation and evaluation of all the options has been considered.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of savings his Department will make across the comprehensive spending review that will be retained within his Department's budgets. [40189]

Chris Grayling: Over the course of the spending review period, the Department for Work and Pensions will increase resource spending by 2% in real terms.

While this settlement provides substantial additional resources to fund our welfare reforms, the Department's core budget will be reduced by 26% in real terms and the corporate centre budget will reduce by 40% by 2014-15.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the make and model is of each Government Car Service car used by his Department since May 2010; and which Minister used each one. [39564]

Chris Grayling: The Government Car Service provides a safe and secure transport for Government Ministers and their official papers.

The make and model of each Government Car Service vehicle used by the DWP Ministers' since May 2010 are as follows:

One Jaguar XJ 2.7 litre diesel
One Honda Civic Hybrid
Three Toyota Prius Hybrid.

The Government Car Service has a policy of not disclosing which make and model of vehicle is used by each Minister for security reasons.

Following a review of the Government Car Service, a revised operating model was introduced and has delivered a 54% reduction in expenditure.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the likely effects on the staffing levels *(a)* in each of his Department's offices in

Glasgow and *(b)* of each service provided by his Department in Glasgow of the implementation of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [41482]

Chris Grayling: While the spending review settlement will result in the Department's core budget being reduced by 26% in real terms over the four years to 2014-15, the Department will receive substantial extra resources to deliver a range of new measures.

This outcome is likely to result in staffing being reduced in some areas of the Department and increased in others, and at different rates. More detailed work is under way to allocate the overall settlement to the different parts of our business and assess the resulting staffing levels. This detailed planning will take account of estimated staff turnover rates and the potential for internal and external redeployment.

The Department's detailed planning for 2011-12 will be made available in a one year delivery plan, which will be published closer to the beginning of the next financial year. Figures for 2012-13 to 2014-15 are not yet available as these are dependent on key decisions on welfare reform.

Departmental Travel

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on ministerial travel since May 2010. [39566]

Chris Grayling: The following table details this Department's spend on ministerial travel during the period May to December 2010; further data are unavailable at present. The Department is currently reviewing travel expenditure across the board with a view to further savings.

Travel expenditure	*2009 (£)*	*2010 (£)*	*% Reduction*
Ministerial cars	356,852	145,420	59
Air/rail costs	40,029	12,694	68
Taxi costs	3,276	1,152	64
Oyster cards	0	48	—
Total	400,157	159,314	60

Disability Living Allowance

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the personal independence payment will include an allowance for mobility requirements; and if he will make a statement. [41395]

Maria Miller: The Welfare Reform Bill, which had its First Reading on the 16 February 2011, makes clear that personal independence payment will comprise a daily living component and a mobility component. Both components will be payable at one of two rates.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Hartlepool constituency receive the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. [37776]

Maria Miller: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Recipients of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance in Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, May 2010

	Number of recipients
Hartlepool constituency	4,130

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data are for the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 100%WPLS.

Disability Living Allowance: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency receiving disability living allowance have had their payments *(a)* reduced and *(b)* increased upon re-assessment in each of the last three years. [41781]

Maria Miller: We are not able to say how many residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency receiving disability living allowance have had their payments *(a)* reduced and *(b)* increased upon re-assessment in each of the last three years. This is because our management information system for DLA does not enable us to provide details at that level.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that people living in care homes can access appropriate and affordable transport to participate in activities following the proposed removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for those in residential care. [37751]

Maria Miller: Local authorities contract with care homes to meet the assessed needs of disabled people that fall within its eligibility criteria and care homes must meet those contractual obligations. Assessed needs are set out in an agreed care plan and will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks.

Care homes are also obliged to help residents pursue their independence including their individual religious beliefs.

In addition, the Access to Work scheme can pay towards equipment needed at work, adapting premises to meet needs, a support worker, and it can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if you cannot use public transport.

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 258W, on disability living allowance: care homes, when he plans to publish the impact assessments on the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from people in residential care. [38054]

Maria Miller: Consideration was given to the equality impacts of the measure when the proposal was being developed. The equality impact assessment for removing the mobility component of disability living allowance from state funded care home residents after 28 days will be published with the proposed legislation.

Disability Living Allowance: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dartford constituency receiving disability living allowance have had their payments *(a)* reduced and *(b)* increased upon reassessment in each of the last 12 months. [41488]

Maria Miller: We are not able to say how many people in Dartford constituency receiving disability living allowance (DLA) have had their payments *(a)* reduced, *(b)* increased upon re-assessment in each of the last 12 months.

This is because our management information system for DLA does not enable us to provide details at that level.

Disability Living Allowance: Ex-servicemen

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many veterans receive *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* the low care component of disability living allowance. [42261]

Maria Miller: Entitlement to disability living allowance is determined by the level of care and/or mobility needs arising from disability. Information, therefore, regarding numbers of veterans receiving disability living allowance is not held by the Department for Work and Pensions as it is not required for the assessment of the claim.

Disability Living Allowance: Wrexham

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for the mobility component of disability living allowance have been made by residents of care homes in Wrexham constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [41690]

Maria Miller: This information is not available because our management information system for DLA does not enable us to provide details at that level.

The number of recipients of either rate of the mobility component of DLA resident in care homes in Wales, is provided in the following table.

Mobility component recipients in residential care

	Number
Wales	3,000
Great Britain	77,000

Notes:
Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Employment

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department plans to provide to contracted providers of the mandatory work activity programme on *(a)* tailoring activities to improve jobseekers' employment prospects and *(b)* supporting jobseekers with disabilities or health problems to comply with the terms of the programme. [38172]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently preparing detailed guidance for Mandatory Work Activity providers. The activity undertaken by customers during a placement will be designed to help them develop the labour market discipline associated with employment. They will be expected to attend on time and regularly, carry out specific tasks and work under supervision, all of which will be useful to them and are valued by employers.

Contracted providers will be required to make any reasonable adjustments to ensure that customers who have been referred to Mandatory Work Activity are able to participate, taking the necessary steps to obtain and provide special aids or services that might be needed for participation.

Employment Schemes

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made for planning purposes of the expected level of unemployment at the time of the introduction of the Work Programme. [42993]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not produce forecasts of unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the autumn forecast.

Neither the OBR claimant count forecasts nor the Department's business planning projections contain any additional impact due to the Work Programme.

The Work Programme will begin in summer 2011. The Office for Budget Responsibility published its forecast of seasonally adjusted UK claimant count unemployment on 29 November 2010. In quarter three of 2011, the forecast is 1.51 million.

Employment Schemes: Derelict land

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the Work Programme on former coalfield communities. [41467]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme is due to launch during summer 2011. Whereas in the past we have prescribed the support that welfare-to-work providers should offer to our customers, we are giving Work Programme providers the freedom to innovate to find the best ways of supporting individual customers into sustained employment, within the context of the local labour market in which they are operating. We are also expecting providers to work actively with local partners, including local authorities, voluntary sector organisations and employers, to understand local needs, sources of support and employment opportunities.

We expect this approach to result in provision that is better able to deal with barriers to employment which are specific to localities, including those experienced by customers in former coalfield communities.

Employment Schemes: Per Capita Costs

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average unit cost will be per participant for each of the different payment groups on the Work Programme. [41057]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will reward delivery partners for moving customers into work and keeping customers in work. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be paying by results after they have occurred.

DWP are currently evaluating tenders for the Work Programme. DWP asked organisations bidding for the Work Programme to state in their bids the level of performance they expect to achieve and the price of their services across the range of customers. Forecast unit costs will therefore be established as part of the competitive process and actual unit costs will depend upon performance delivered.

Employment: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to assist young people in Coventry into employment. [41648]

Chris Grayling: This Government are determined to deal with the legacy of youth unemployment. In all parts of the country our approach is to ensure that young unemployed people get the personalised help they need to find sustainable employment. Jobcentre Plus local offices will have more control to allow them to deliver in a way that is more responsive to local needs. Work Programme providers will be free to design support based on the needs of individuals and target the right support at the right time. Both Jobcentre Plus and Work Programme providers will work with local public, private, and third sector organisations where this delivers the best job outcomes for individuals.

Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the Health and Safety Executive employed in each region in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of levels of employment in each of the next five years. [43008]

Chris Grayling: The number of people employed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), by region, for the five years from 1 April 2006 to 1 February 2011 is provided in the following table. HSE does not hold readily accessible, reliable regional figures prior to 2006. It has still to determine its estimates for regional staffing levels in each of the next five years.

Health and Safety Executive: people[1] employed by region

Region[2] at 1 April	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*At 1 February 2011*
East Midlands	542	518	511	529	526	505
East of England	206	193	175	184	182	175
London	569	515	442	291	213	209
North East	81	77	76	83	82	85
North West	1,419	1,400	1,340	1,449	1,537	1,548
Scotland	304	284	277	282	292	285
South East	176	195	190	193	200	199
South West	105	101	90	99	119	123
Wales	121	126	114	118	120	119
West Midlands	184	177	167	173	174	173
Yorkshire and the Humber	211	208	373	376	386	386
Total	3,918	3,794	3,755	3,777	3,831	3,807

[1] The figures are a headcount and include staff in the Health and Safety Laboratory, which is an in-house agency of HSE and staff on inward secondment where HSE meets the majority of their costs.

[2] Staff are assigned to regions based on their permanent office address. However, some staff will work at any site across Great Britain depending on where their skills are required.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of tenants in social housing likely to claim housing benefit if rents for new tenants are let at 80 of market rates *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region. [41858]

Steve Webb: The Department has not estimated the proportion of tenants in social housing likely to claim housing benefit if rents for new tenants are let at 80% of market rates. Work between DWP and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is ongoing on the impact on housing benefit of the proposals for affordable rent for social housing. DCLG plan to publish an impact assessment for the policy measure in March.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of social housing rental income supported by housing benefit *(a)* at current rent levels and *(b)* with new lettings at 80 per cent. of market levels (i) in total and (ii) in each region. [41859]

Steve Webb: A broad estimate of the proportion of social housing rental income supported by housing benefit in England in 2009-10 is about 60 to 70%.

No estimate has been made of the proportion of social housing rental income supported by housing benefit in each region.

No estimate has been made of the proportion of social housing rental income that will be supported by housing benefit with new lettings at 80% of market levels.

Work between DWP and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is ongoing on the impact on housing benefit of the proposals for affordable rent for social housing. DCLG plan to publish an impact assessment for the policy measure in March.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average reduction in housing benefit for tenants of social-rented housing who are deemed to be under-occupying their homes in each local authority area. [42779]

Steve Webb: The Family Resources Survey provides information on the characteristics of housing benefit recipients under occupying their accommodation. However, the survey is not large enough to yield reliable estimates of the average reduction in housing benefit for tenants of social-rented housing who are deemed to be under-occupying their homes in each local authority area.

On 16 February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an impact assessment entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment included national and regional estimates regarding working age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, under-occupying their home and who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in social-rented housing.

The impact assessment can be found at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of working age households in receipt of housing benefit that are deemed to be under-occupying their properties and who are *(a)* local authority tenants and *(b)* registered social landlord tenants in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [42780]

Steve Webb: The Family Resources Survey provides information on the characteristics of housing benefit recipients under occupying their accommodation. However, the survey is not large enough to yield reliable estimates of the number of working-age households in receipt of housing benefit that are currently deemed to be under-occupying their properties and who are *(a)* local authority tenants and *(b)* registered social landlord tenants in each region.

On 16 February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an impact assessment entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment included national and regional estimates regarding working age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, under-occupying their home and who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in social-rented housing. The impact assessment also included a national estimate of the number of local authority and registered social landlord tenants likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria.

The impact assessment can be found at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in receipt of housing benefit in social rented accommodation where the claimant is *(a)* between the age of 60 years and retirement age, *(b)* part of a couple aged under 60 years with children, *(c)* a lone parent under the age of 60 years, *(d)* part of a couple without children under the age of 60 years and *(e)* under the age of 60 years and single in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [42792]

Steve Webb: DWP estimates of the number of households in receipt of housing benefit in social-rented accommodation by the requested family types and age bands are given in the following tables:

Housing benefit claimants in social rented accommodation, family type, aged under 60: November 2010

Government office region	*All*	*Single, no child dependant*	*Single with child dependant(s)*	*Couple, no child dependant*	*Couple with child dependant(s)*
All	1,090,080	511,850	372,450	55,910	149,880
North East	52,950	26,010	15,740	4,090	7,110
North West	176,980	88,920	57,490	9,680	20,900
Yorkshire and Humberside	71,110	34,260	22,390	4,280	10,190
East Midlands	52,220	23,360	18,050	3,000	7,820
West Midlands	99,200	45,610	33,200	5,740	14,640
East of England	90,910	37,850	33,680	4,700	14,690
London	177,730	81,800	66,540	4,920	24,470
South East	122,430	49,890	46,700	5,980	19,850
South West	84,930	36,180	30,080	4,640	14,030
Wales	56,600	27,070	18,180	3,650	7,700
Scotland	105,020	60,910	30,410	5,230	8,470

60-state pension age housing benefit claimants, social tenants: November 2010

	Claimants
All	96,900
North East	6,600
North West	18,370
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,440
East Midlands	4,420
West Midlands	8,760

60-state pension age housing benefit claimants, social tenants: November 2010

	Claimants
East of England	7,140
London	10,610
South East	9,870
South West	7,670
Wales	5,720
Scotland	10,290

Notes:
1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and November 2010 are the latest available.
4. The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.
5. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
6. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:
(a) the recipient if they are single, or
(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.
7. State pension age (SPA) is 64 years for men and currently 60 for women under the incremental SPA equalisation.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom, *(d)* four bedroom and *(e)* five bedroom or greater properties in the social rented sector occupied by working age tenants in receipt of housing benefit in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [42793]

Steve Webb: The Family Resources Survey provides information on the characteristics of housing benefit recipients including the sizes of the properties they occupy. However, the survey is not large enough to yield reliable estimates of the number of bedrooms in properties in the social-rented sector that are occupied by working age tenants in receipt of housing benefit in each region.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom, *(d)* four bedroom and *(e)* five bedroom or greater properties in the social rented sector that are occupied by working age tenants in receipt of housing benefit in each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [42794]

Steve Webb: The Family Resources Survey provides information on the characteristics of housing benefit recipients including the sizes of the properties they occupy. However, the survey is not large enough to yield reliable estimates of the number of bedrooms in properties in the social-rented sector that are occupied by working age tenants in receipt of housing benefit in each local authority area.

Immigrants: Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he was consulted on the Positions on the rights of migrants in an irregular situation Position Paper (CommDH/PositionPaper(2010)5), from the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in respect of the matters relating to employment and economic and social rights; and if he will make a statement. [41903]

Chris Grayling: The Position Paper mentioned is a short summary of the findings of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, acting in an independent capacity. There is no formal mechanism or requirement for Member Governments of the Council of Europe to be routinely consulted on such papers and I can confirm that the Secretary of State was not consulted on the Position Paper.

Independent Living Fund: Wrexham

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications have been *(a)* made to and *(b)* granted by the Independent Living Fund in Wrexham constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [42423]

Maria Miller: The ILF does not record applications or awards made by parliamentary constituency. The application and acceptance levels for Wrexham Social Services Department for the last five years are as follows:

	Number of applications made to the ILF	*Number of applications that were accepted by the ILF*
2006-07	12	12
2007-08	13	13
2008-09	9	6
2009-10	10	5
2010-11	7	2

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions have been brought by the Health and Safety Executive for breaches of health and safety law in each region in the last 10 years. [43000]

Chris Grayling: HSE holds the information required for the period 2000-01 to 2009-10 and the figures are shown in table 1.

These represent prosecutions of individual breaches of health and safety legislation, heard in the relevant year, and where a result has been secured, i.e. the prosecution has been completed. A 'year' is from 1 April to 31 March.

The following figures relate to prosecutions brought by HSE in England and Wales, and recommended to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) in Scotland. The COPFS may amend or decide not to proceed with some offences. It should be noted that not all offences recommended by HSE to COPFS result in a prosecution.

Table 1: Health and safety offences prosecuted by enforcing authorities in Great Britain, by region (where known), 2000-01 to 2009-10[1]

	Offences prosecuted										
Region/country	*2000-01*[2]	*2001-02*[2]	*2002-03*[2]	*2003-04*[2]	*2004-05*[2]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[3]	*2007-08*[3]	*2008-09*[3]	*2009-10*[1, 3]	*2000-01 to 2009-10*[1]
East of England	171	210	162	191	223	217	116	110	117	124	1,641
East Midlands	245	232	129	127	73	87	76	106	107	114	1,296
London	149	93	130	68	95	74	78	67	55	105	914
North East	94	97	70	76	56	49	59	68	44	35	648
North West	222	178	229	164	101	94	121	104	98	89	1,400
South East	177	141	77	155	92	68	111	77	91	116	1,105
South West	106	115	104	112	78	54	89	52	145	85	940
West Midlands	232	147	233	204	177	110	108	132	126	108	1,577
Yorkshire and the Humber	139	200	108	178	113	133	135	131	110	113	1,360
English regions 'not known'	97	92	60	72	47	9	—	—	—	—	377
England	1,632	1,505	1,302	1,347	1,055	895	893	847	893	889	11,258
Wales	160	219	124	78	88	40	52	59	42	34	896
Scotland	181	262	233	295	177	121	96	154	163	93	1,775
Country not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	11
Great Britain	1,973	1,986	1,659	1,720	1,320	1,056	1,041	1,060	1,099	1,026	13,940

[1] Provisional.

[2] Up to 2005-06 only information for HSE's field operations directorate (FOD) were available on a regional basis in England, and only total figures for hazardous installations directorate (HID) and nuclear directorate (ND). Thereafter, data for all HSE directorates are presented within English regional figures.

[3] Figures from 2006-07 exclude ORR prosecutions.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Health and Safety Executive on its policy on the prosecution of firms in the construction industry alleged to be violating the provisions of health and safety legislation; and if he will make a statement. [43006]

Chris Grayling: Under the HSE's enforcement policy statement, prosecution is the expected outcome where an investigation of an incident has collected sufficient information of a serious breach of health and safety law to provide a realistic prospect of conviction, and where it is in the public interest to prosecute. Individual decisions on prosecution are for HSE.

Jobcentre Plus: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres in Scotland he expects to close in each of the next five years. [41134]

Chris Grayling: As the administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many job centres in Scotland he expects to close in each of the next five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can confirm there are no plans presently to close any Jobcentres in Scotland. However, we will need to keep our network under review. Under the terms of the Spending Review, DWP is being asked to make significant efficiencies in its work and for Jobcentre Plus this will mean a transformation of our business, exploiting technology and using the experience of our own people to drive out inefficiencies in our processes. Our Jobcentre network is an asset and vital to deliver customer service, but it is also a high proportion of our budget.

To help achieve the level of efficiencies required we will be reviewing our Jobcentre network as part of an overall service delivery plan. That means looking at which locations we will deliver service from and how best to do so, working with local partners on opportunities for outreach or co-location. Once we have developed our plans we will share these with local stakeholders, including MPs, as part of our normal consultation arrangements for service delivery.

Jobcentre Plus: Voluntary Organisations

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for collaboration between job centres and voluntary organisations. [41738]

Chris Grayling: As the collaboration between Jobcentres and voluntary organisations is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh, I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what plans he has for collaboration between Jobcentres and voluntary organisations. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has developed strong national and local links with the voluntary and community sector. Our aim is to ensure that unemployed people can access advice and support from voluntary and community organisations, including information about volunteering opportunities through the Government's Work Together initiative.

On 7 February we announced a new partnership between Jobcentre Plus and the voluntary sector, which will help people get back to work. Prince's Trust advisers and other local voluntary organisations will be co-located in a number of Jobcentres in the next few weeks, and around the country from April.

This will strengthen the support available to unemployed people to help them successfully move into employment.

Jobcentres: Closures

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres were closed during the 2008 job centre closure programme; and what the planned number of such closures was at the start of that programme. [41327]

Chris Grayling: As the administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh, I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many job centres were closed during the 2008 job centre closure programme and what the planned number of such closures was at the start of that programme. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

54 Jobcentre Plus offices were closed during 2008 that were previously open to the public.

These closures were as a result of local service delivery planning which took account of:

the merger of the former Benefits Agency and Employment Service and opportunities to rationalise the estate where the two organisations had offices which, in many instances, were geographically close to each other; and

a programme of modernising service delivery to our customers and planned future welfare reform changes. For example, the vast majority of our services, in common with most large, modern organisations, are now also delivered through the telephone and internet.

Marriage

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 627-8W, on marriage, whether the steps taken to mark Marriage Week apply to same sex relationships as well as relationships between men and women. [42173]

Chris Grayling: At the Marriage Week launch event my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions made a speech extolling the virtue of marriage in society. He made the point that, while marriage is unique, we should nonetheless be in favour of commitment in all forms of social engagement.

He was clear that stability is strengthened when two people make an active and open commitment to each other.

At the event the Secretary of State explained that:

"Commitment...is crucial, which is why the Coalition supports civil partnerships, another expression of that binding commitment."

For more details the speech can be read in its entirety at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/ministers-speeches/2011/08-02-11.shtml

Members: Correspondence

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to questions 34378, 34379 and 34380, on the work capability assessment, tabled on 13 January 2011 for answer on 17 January. [39908]

Chris Grayling: I replied to my hon. Friend's questions on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 816-7W.

Payroll

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees were enrolled in payroll giving in each year of its operation; and how many payroll givers there were in each such year. [41037]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available for DWP covering all years of its operation. We only hold data from April 2007 until January 2011 inclusive. In each year the average number of employees enrolled in payroll giving each month was:

	Per month
April 2007-March 2008	9,515
April 2008-March 2009	8,762
April 2009-March 2010	8,305
April 2010-January 2011	8,216

The Department does not hold details of the number of payroll givers as payment are made through the Charities Trust.

Pensioners: Carer's Allowance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 148W, on Age UK, whether his Department is considering interim arrangements for the pensions credit and carer's allowances, prior to the introduction of the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [42023]

Steve Webb: The Government announced at the introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill that carer's allowance will continue to exist as a universal benefit providing an independent income for carers and recognition of the important role they play.

As carer's allowance will continue to exist as a separate benefit we will retain the link between its receipt and eligibility to the additional amount for caring in pension credit. However we have introduced a clause in the Welfare Reform Bill to amend the State Pension Credit Act 2002 which will give us the flexibility to set an alternative test which won't require a pension credit customer with caring responsibilities to first claim another benefit in order to receive the additional amount for caring.

The detailed test for the award of the additional amount will be set out in regulations and will make the process for accessing the additional support for carers through pension credit more straightforward. We are currently considering the timing for the introduction of these changes.

Remploy

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the level of operating surplus or deficit in each of the factories operated by Remploy in 2010-11. [42802]

Maria Miller: The Department does not routinely monitor Remploy's operating surplus or deficit at the individual factory level. The Department does however agree and monitor the operating result of Remploy's enterprise business as a whole.

The following table, provided by Remploy, shows the operating result for each of Remploy's businesses for 2010-11 to date. Remploy do not monitor progress at factory level because it would not give an accurate picture of performance as some businesses account for sales centrally and have associated business office costs which are not apportioned at factory level.

Remploy operating result by business: 2010-11 (to January 2011)

Business	*Number of factories*	*Factories included in business*	*Operating loss*[1] *(£000)*
Automotive	4	Birmingham, Coventry, Derby and Huddersfield	-2,018
Building Products	2	Merthyr Tydfil and Oldham	-3,818
CCTV	0	—	-491
E-cycle	3	Porth, Preston and Heywood	-5,014
Electronics	3	Barking, Bolton and Southampton	-2,975
Furniture	3	Blackburn, Neath and Sheffield	-6,106
Healthcare	2	Chesterfield and Springburn	-2,672
Packaging	5	Burnley, Croespenmaen, Norwich, Portsmouth, and Sunderland	-4,630
Social Enterprises	5	Aberdeen, Bridgend, North London, Poole and Worksop	-2,481
Textiles	6	Cleator Moor, Clydebank, Cowdenbeath, Dundee, Leven and Stirling	-5,568
Commercial Furniture	8	Aberdare, Abertillery, Ashington, Birkenhead, Penzance, Newcastle upon Tyne, Swansea and Wrexham	-9,340
Office Fulfilment	6	Bristol, Edinburgh, Manchester Lanarkshire North Staffs and Wigan	-5,285
Supply Chain	6	Acton, Gateshead, Leeds, Leicester, Pontefract and Spennymoor	-3,866
Filters	1	Barrow	-544
Managed Services	—	—	-69
EB Central	—	—	-2,678
Total	54	—	-57,555

[1] To January 2011

Remploy: Pay

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the salaries of Remploy staff; and if he will make a statement. [41458]

Maria Miller: The proposed Remploy pay remit for 2010-11 has been received from the company. The Secretary of State has agreed the £250 increase for employees paid £21,000 or less. Agreement on the remaining elements is expected shortly.

The issue of pay was raised by trade union representatives at a meeting on 24 January.

This Government believe all Departments, including non-departmental public bodies, have to show restraint in the current economic climate. The approach to pay and bonuses for the current and previous years was negotiated by the previous Administration. Within the agreed remit, contractual arrangements between Remploy and individual staff, including the level of staff salaries, are a matter for the company. We are working with Remploy to ensure that appropriate pay restraint is applied in future years.

Remploy: Redundancy

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure discussions take place between his Department and the recognised trade unions prior to the issuing of any redundancy notices by the management of Remploy. [42801]

Maria Miller: Consultation on the voluntary redundancy scheme is a management matter for Remploy. I have met trade union representatives to discuss issues facing Remploy, most recently on 24 January. I have encouraged the company and the trade unions to continue discussions to provide the best outcome for disabled people.

Social Fund: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans and *(c)* community care grants for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 and (ii) £1,000 were made to residents of Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in each of the last five years. [41840]

Steve Webb: In the case of budgeting loans, applicants are asked to tick which of seven categories they need help for, but are not asked to specify the items they require. Television sets would come under the category 'to buy furniture or household equipment'. Data are not available on the number of awards for each category.

The number of crisis loans or community care grants initially awarded for the purpose of buying television sets over the value of (i) £500 or (ii) £1,000 to residents of Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in each of the financial years 2005-06 to 2009-10 was extremely low, being recorded as nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the information given does not include applications which were processed clerically and had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of the relevant financial year.

2. Data are available for initial awards only. No information is available on the number of awards of the type described which were made after review.

3. Exact numbers have not been given for data protection reasons. 'Nil or negligible' means less than five.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of tapering income for universal credit from *(a)* widows' pensions, *(b)* all private pensions and *(c)* spouse maintenance at the rate of 65 per cent. rather than the proposed 100 per cent. rate. [38671]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives the estimated long-run Exchequer costs of tapering income from *(a)* widows' pensions, *(b)* all private pensions and *(c)* spouse maintenance at 65% rather then the proposed 100%. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that universal credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

The annual costs to the Exchequer of changing the taper for certain income streams under universal credit

	Payments	*Exchequer costs (£ million)*
(a)	Widows pensions	160
(b)	All private pensions	430
(c)	Spouse maintenance	[1]—

[1] Sample sizes are too small to provide a robust estimate

The changes have been modelled using the Department's policy simulation model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take-up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the universal credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010-11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Analysis is only for those of working age. This is defined as those who are not yet eligible for state pension or pension credit.

Exchequer costs include any change in overall universal credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of increasing the savings limit for the receipt of universal credit to £20,000. [38674]

Chris Grayling: The annual cost to the Exchequer of increasing the savings limit for those in receipt of Universal Credit from £16,000 to £20,000 is estimated to be approximately £30 million a year in steady state (2010-11 prices). Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that Universal Credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

This proposal has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available is for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the Universal Credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010-11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall Universal Credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the £16,000 saving limit for universal credit people who are *(a)* in work and *(b)* working for at least 16 hours per week. [38675]

Chris Grayling: The estimated annual cost to the Exchequer of exempting from the £16,000 savings limit for Universal Credit for people who *(a)* are in work is around £70 million and *(b)* exempting those who jointly work at least 16 hours per week is also around £70 million. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that Universal Credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

This proposal has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available is for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the Universal Credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010-11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall Universal Credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of introducing into universal credit an earnings disregard for second earners in a couple of *(a)* £500, *(b)* £1,000, *(c)* £1,500, *(d)* £2,000, *(e)* £2,500 and *(f)* £3,000 per year. [38676]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives the estimated long-run Exchequer costs for introducing various earnings disregards for second earners in a couple. It has been assumed that the disregard would be fixed at the stated level, without any reductions to reflect housing support, and would be available to couples where both are working any positive number of hours. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that universal credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

The annual costs to the Exchequer of introducing various disregard levels for second earners under universal credit

	Earnings disregards	*Exchequer costs[1] (£ million)*
(a)	500	130
(b)	1,000	280
(c)	1,500	430
(d)	2,000	600
(e)	2,500	780
(f)	3,000	970

[1] Costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

The disregards have been modelled using the Department's policy simulation model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take-up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the universal credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010/11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall universal credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the *(a)* cost and *(b)* savings to the Exchequer of setting the universal credit taper at (i) 50 per cent., (ii) 55 per cent., (iii) 60 per cent. and (iv) 70 per cent. in each of the next five financial years. [38677]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives an indicative estimate of the annual Exchequer cost (2010-11 prices) of alternative universal credit tapers. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that universal credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

The annual Exchequer costs of adjusting to alternative universal credit taper options

	Taper (percentage)	*Exchequer cost[1] (£ billion)*
(a)	50	4.6
(b)	55	2.8
(c)	60	1.3
(d)	70	-1.2

[1] Costs are rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion

Year by year estimates for the next five years are not available at present. After the introduction of universal credit there will be a number of years of transition as existing cases migrate to the new system. The Department is considering how best to phase this transition.

This proposal has been modelled using the Department's policy simulation model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take-up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the universal credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-150—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010-11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall universal credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of introducing into the universal credit an earnings disregard for single people of *(a)* £520, *(b)* £780, *(c)* £1,040, *(d)* £1,300 and *(e)* £1,560 per year. [38678]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives an estimate of the Exchequer costs of introducing an earnings disregard for single people in the universal credit. For the purposes of analysis it has been assumed that the disregard would also have a disregard floor at the same level. It has been assumed that the disregard would be fixed at the stated level, without any reductions to reflect housing support, and would be available to couples where both are working any positive number of hours. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that universal credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

The annual costs to the Exchequer of various earnings disregards options for single people under universal credit

	Earnings Disregards	*Exchequer costs[1] (£ million)*
(a)	520	130
(b)	780	200
(c)	1,040	270
(d)	1,300	350

The annual costs to the Exchequer of various earnings disregards options for single people under universal credit

	Earnings Disregards	*Exchequer costs[1] (£ million)*
(e)	1,560	430

[1] Costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million

This proposal has been modelled using the Department's policy simulation model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take-up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the universal credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010/11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall universal credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of increasing the household component of the couple disregard floor in universal credit from £520 to *(a)* £780, *(b)* £1,040 and *(c)* £1,560 per year. [38679]

Chris Grayling: Table 1 as follows gives the estimated Exchequer costs for increasing the couple disregard floor from £520 to *(a)* £780, *(b)* £1,040, *(c)* £1,560 per annum. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that universal credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

Table 1: The annual costs to the Exchequer of increasing the earnings disregard floors for couples under universal credit

	Earnings disregards (£)	*Exchequer costs (£)[1]*
(a)	780	100
(b)	1,040	200
(c)	1,560	410

[1] Costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

This proposal has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the universal credit reform.

Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. However, all costs are presented in current (2010-11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall universal credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of increasing the household component of the lone parent disregard floor of universal credit from £1,560 to *(a)* £1,820, *(b)* £2,080 and *(c)* £2,340 per year. [38680]

Chris Grayling: Table 1 as follows gives the estimated Exchequer costs from increasing the lone parent disregard floor in universal credit from £1,560 to *(a)* £1,820, *(b)* 2,080,and *(c)* £2,340 per annum. Analysis presents the long-run costs which assume that universal credit has been fully implemented and there is no longer any transitional protection in the system.

Table 1: The annual costs to the Exchequer of changing the disregard floors for lone parents under universal credit

	Earnings disregards (£)	*Exchequer costs (£ million)[1]*
(a)	1,820	60
(b)	2,080	120
(c)	2,340	190

[1] Costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million.

This proposal has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); the latest FRS data available are for 2008-09. Costs have been estimated on the basis of imperfect take up and reflect assumptions about take up behaviour pre and post the universal credit reform. Analysis is presented based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15—incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating.

However, all costs are presented in current (2010-11) prices so do not reflect inflation.

Analysis does not include any behavioural impacts (i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work).

Exchequer costs include any change in overall universal credit expenditure and any impact on income tax or national insurance. We have not assumed any impact on indirect taxation.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who are ineligible for benefits or tax credits who will be entitled to universal credit. [38681]

Chris Grayling: Departmental modelling estimates that, once universal credit is fully implemented, approximately 400,000 households (containing 600,000 adults and 100,000 children) who we would expect to be ineligible for tax credits and benefits under the current system will be entitled to universal credit.

This has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Analysis is based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15, incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. It does not include any behavioural impacts i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who are eligible to receive benefits or tax credits but are not claiming them who will claim and receive universal credit. [38682]

Chris Grayling: Departmental modelling estimates that once Universal Credit is fully implemented, approximately 1.4 million households (containing 1.8 million adults and 1.3 million children) who we would not expect to claim their full entitlement to benefits and tax credits under the current system, will claim and receive Universal Credit.

This has been modelled using the Department's Policy Simulation Model (PSM) based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Analysis is based on a projection of the FRS 2008-09 to 2014-15, incorporating forecast demographic change, announced policy changes and uprating. It assumes an improved rate of take-up of benefits under Universal Credit, but does not include any behavioural impacts i.e. movements into work or changing hours of work.

Social Security Benefits: Cumbernauld

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the change in the amount of benefit payments to individuals in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency arising from the change in benefits uprating from retail prices index to consumer prices index over the comprehensive spending review period. [42999]

Chris Grayling: Data on change in the amount of benefit payments on the constituency level are not available.

Benefits which were previously increased in line with the retail prices index (RPI) and are now linked to the consumer prices index (CPI) will receive a 3.1% increase in April 2011, rather than a 4.6% increase.

Constituency level data on DWP benefit expenditure are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/pc_expenditure.xls

The proposed rates of benefits for the 2011-12 tax year are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/home/topics/delivery/benefit_uprating/index.asp

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure employment for disabled persons no longer eligible for benefits under proposed changes to eligibility criteria. [38452]

Maria Miller: As part of the spending review announcement a time limit will, subject to parliamentary approval, be introduced of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance and who are placed in the work related activity group. Individuals may be eligible for income related ESA after this one year period. The Government are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the same employment opportunities to find and stay in work, regardless of their disability or benefit status. Significant support is available to support disabled people into long-term sustainable employment.

Work Choice, which was launched in October last year, provides tailored support to help disabled people, who face the most complex barriers to employment, to find and stay in work, and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Access to Work provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people above and beyond what the employer could reasonably provide, to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability and, thus, stay in work.

Remploy delivers a range of employment and development opportunities for disabled people under the Work Choice programme.

Residential training is available for unemployed disabled adults whose needs cannot be met through any other Government funded programmes.

The Work Programme will be introduced this year to provide more personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people. Contributory ESA customers will be able to volunteer for the Work Programme, and if they wish, remain on the programme after their benefit has come to an end, ensuring that they receive all the support they need to help them return to work.

I have also commissioned an independent review of the support the Government provide to disabled people who want to work. This review will be conducted by Liz Sayce, chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR.

Social Security Benefits: Hearing Impairment and Learning Disability

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* profoundly deaf people and *(b)* people with learning difficulties who will be re-assessed to determine continued eligibility for disability living allowance and its successor benefit; [40879]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of re-assessing the work capability of people with learning difficulties in order to determine their continued eligibility for disability living allowance and its successor benefit; [40880]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of re-assessing the work capability of profoundly deaf people in order to determine their continued eligibility for disability living allowance and its successor benefit; [40881]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of re-assessing people with learning difficulties in order to determine their continued eligibility for disability living allowance and its successor benefit; [41483]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of re-assessing profoundly deaf people in order to determine their continued eligibility for disability living allowance and its successor benefit. [41484]

Maria Miller: The consultation document Disability Living Allowance reform, published on 6 December 2010, set out our proposals for disability living allowance reform. We will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Personal independence payment will be available to disabled people regardless of whether they are in or out of work and the assessment will not examine someone's capacity to work; rather it will determine how their impairment affects their ability to carry out a range of activities key to everyday life.

From 2013 we will begin reassessing all existing working-age disability living allowance caseload and transferring people to personal independence payment where appropriate.

The consultation has closed and we are considering the responses received before we publish a formal response. However, the Welfare Reform Bill introducing the high level legislative changes necessary was introduced to the House on 16 February 2011. In the meantime we are continuing to work on the design of personal independence payment and the new assessment, which we are developing in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health, disability and social care, including disabled people. I am, therefore, unable at this time to comment on how the new assessment will work, its likely costs or make estimates of its impact on people with specific health conditions or disabilities.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have had their benefit entitlements *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* reduced during the trial of the reassessments of customers receiving incapacity benefit and income support in north east Scotland. [37626]

Maria Miller: The final information requested is not available as not all customers have completed their reassessment period. However, to date, a total of 1,166 decisions have been made for customers involved in the IB reassessment trial. Of these, 834 customers have been awarded employment and support allowance.

No one moving from their existing benefits to employment and support allowance will see a reduction in the level of their benefit entitlement at the point of change. A transitional addition payment will be awarded to protect the customer's overall benefit income, this means that:

> where people who are eligible for ESA receive more on existing incapacity benefits than the appropriate ESA rate, their existing rate of benefit will be protected at the point of conversion; and
>
> where people who are eligible for ESA receive less on incapacity benefits than the appropriate ESA rate, their benefit will immediately be increased to the ESA rate on conversion.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department rural-proofed its decision to raise the state pension age for women. [41188]

Steve Webb: Although the state pension age is not dependent on where a person lives, the differences in life expectancies between geographical areas in the UK was considered as part of our review.

We have published a full equality impact assessment, including an assessment of how women may be affected by the proposed changes, and consider the proposed changes will not have any specific impact on rural area.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has assessed whether his revised timetable for the increase in the state pension age for women is compliant with the Equalities Act 2010. [42232]

Steve Webb: The proposed changes to state pension age contained in the Pensions Bill 2011 are compliant with the Equalities Act 2010.

An assessment is contained in the equality impact assessment which accompanied the Government's White Paper "A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66".

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has conducted an equality impact assessment of his revised timetable for the increase in the state pension age for women. [42233]

Steve Webb: An equality impact assessment accompanied the Government's White Paper "A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66".

Unemployed People: Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to provide co-ordinated volunteering opportunities for people who expect to become unemployed. [40989]

Chris Grayling: The Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service supports people at the risk of redundancy find alternative paid employment. Discussions can include the possibility of volunteering if this is seen as a helpful move towards achieving this end.

Local Jobcentre Plus offices are working with voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that unemployed people have access to advice and information about volunteering and local opportunities, delivered through the Government's Work Together initiative.

Jobcentre Plus announced on 7 February a new partnership with the voluntary sector which will help people get back to work. Prince's Trust advisers and other local voluntary organisations will start to appear in Jobcentres wherever possible from April 2011, starting in a few locations over the coming weeks.

Unemployed People: Social Conditions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the happiness and well-being levels of *(a)* recently unemployed and *(b)* long-term unemployed people. [41831]

Chris Grayling: The DWP is very interested in wider measures of well-being and how these can be used to inform policy development. In that regard we are closely involved with the ONS activities on measuring subjective wellbeing and, as surveys to measure well-being are developed in 2011, we will be looking at the emerging evidence on the relationship between employment status and well-being.

An additional source of information which we are aware of is the Economic and Social Research Council led survey "Understanding Society". This will also collect information on well-being (life satisfaction) by employment status so will provide some valuable insight. The Department is contributing funding towards this survey.

More specifically, DWP already has under way a detailed survey of JSA claimants and their job-search experiences which will include various measures of their physical and mental health as well as their wider wellbeing. We expect this to report by the end of 2011.

Unemployment Benefits: Sign Language

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those claiming out-of-work benefits are British sign language users. [41113]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available. Information on whether a claimant is a British Sign Language (BSL) user is not routinely recorded for all claimants.

However, in order to facilitate effective communication with its customers, the Department supplies face-to-face interpreting for customers who are deaf or hard of hearing and who communicate using BSL. The Department provides around 100 BSL interpreters per month and also provides lip speakers, sign language communicators and note takers.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of new claimants he expects to receive universal credit in October 2013. [41252]

Maria Miller: We will start to take new claims to universal credit from October 2013. The proportion of new claims receiving universal credit in that month will depend on more detailed transition plans, which have yet to be set out.

CABINET OFFICE

BBC: Central Office of Information

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussion *(a)* he, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have had with the Director-General of the BBC on the assumption by the BBC of responsibility for material commissioned by the Central Office of Information. [32583]

Mr Maude: No Cabinet Office official or special adviser has held discussions with the Director General of the BBC on the assumption by the BBC of responsibility for material commissioned by the Central Office of Information.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to answer Question 32583, tabled on 20 December 2010, on discussions with the BBC on material commissioned by the Central Office of Information. [42714]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today.

Big Society Bank

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to seek financial support from the financial services sectors in addition to dormant accounts to provide the initial capital base of the Big Society Bank. [39767]

Mr Hurd: The four main UK banks have agreed to provide £200 million of capital over two years to set up the Big Society Bank.

This is a very welcome gesture from the banks, and will significantly raise the amount of finance available to the Big Society Bank, helping to ensure the growth of a sustainable social investment market. These funds will be in addition to the English portion of dormant account funding.

Big Society Initiative

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what voluntary organisations the chief executive of the big society initiative has met as part of the development of that initiative. [39923]

Mr Hurd: Gareth Davies became executive director of the Office for Civil Society in November 2010.

He regularly meets members of voluntary sector organisations at roundtables and other stakeholder events. Most recently he has had meetings with Dame Elizabeth Hoodless, CSV, Dame Julia Cleverdon, BITC, and Dame Barbara Stocking, Oxfam.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contact *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with the Association of Chief Executives of voluntary organisations on the development of the big society initiative. [39924]

Mr Hurd: The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) is one of the Office for Civil Society's current strategic partners, which involves it representing the views of chief executives of the voluntary sector to Government.

As such, my officials and I have frequent contact with ACEVO on many areas of policy relating to civil society and big society.

For example, ACEVO has actively engaged with the public service reform agenda and played a leading role in facilitating the consultation for the Modernising Commissioning Green Paper.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department undertook on the big society initiative prior to its launch. [40158]

Mr Hurd: The big society is not the result of research undertaken in Cabinet Office, it was developed outside Government. The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister set out their commitment to growing the big society at an event in Downing street on 18 May 2010, shortly after entering office.

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the average charitable donation per head in each socio-economic group in each of the last 10 years. [40202]

Mr Hurd: Data referenced in the Giving Green Paper show that between 2005-06 and 2007-08 the proportion of individuals giving to charity in each income quartile remained stable. Between 2004-05 to 2006-07, the percentage of high level donors (those giving £100 or more a month) in the upper income quartile increased from 11% to 16%.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of funding received by UK charities was attributable to Government bodies in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the likely proportion in each of the next four years. [40401]

Mr Hurd: The proportion of income received by UK charities from Government bodies is estimated in the National Council for Voluntary Organisation's UK Civil Society Almanac 2010 as follows:

	Percentage
2009-10	[1]—
2008-09	[1]—
2007-08	36
2006-07	35
2005-06	34
2004-05	32
2003-04	32
2002-03	[2]—
2001-02	35
2000-01	32

[1] Data not available as yet

[2] Data not available

The likely proportion of funding to UK charities in each of the next four years is yet to be assessed.

Charities: Voluntary Organisations

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend charity law to allow greater support to local self-help groups staffed by volunteers. [41475]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to reducing the amount of regulation, monitoring and reporting that is imposed on charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations. A Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce, chaired by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts, has been set up to help the Government meet this commitment. Lord Hodgson expects to be able to report, with recommendations, to Cabinet Office and Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers in May.

A review of the Charities Act 2006 is due to take place later this year. This will provide an opportunity to consider changes to charity law that would help small volunteer-run charities, while maintaining high levels of public trust and confidence.

Childbirth

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in which 100 wards or Lower Super Output Areas the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest percentages of low birth weight babies occurred in the last period for which figures are available. [40400]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in which 100 wards or Lower Super Output Areas the a) highest and b) lowest percentages of low birth weight babies occurred in the last period for which figures are available [40400].

The tables list the 100 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) that have the a) highest (Table 1) and b) lowest (Table 2) percentages of low birthweight (under 2,500 grams) live births for 2007-2009, the most recent years for which figures are available.

There were more than 100 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) where there were no low birthweight births and it would not be possible to identify the lowest 100 of these. Therefore data have been provided at MSOA level.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Information on live births is routinely published by different characteristics of birth and is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408

Citizenship

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress has been made on developing a National Citizen Service; and if he will make a statement. [41810]

Mr Hurd: 12 providers have been appointed to run National Citizen Service (NCS) pilots for 16-year-olds in summer 2011. Over 11,000 NCS places will be available in a wide range of locations in England, and those organisations are now in the process of attracting young people to join their pilot schemes. The Cabinet Office, in conjunction with the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government, continues to work closely with our 2011 pilot providers and to plan for the second year of NCS pilots in 2012.

Community Development: Leeds

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in the establishment of community organisers in Leeds to date. [40340]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* Cabinet Office is close to announcing and appointing the national partner for the management of the Community Organiser programme. The partner will train 5,000 Community Organisers over the lifetime of this Parliament, working primarily with communities with significant deprivation and low social capital. Initial areas expressing an interest include cities across England. More details will be available shortly.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40526]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker) on 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 853W.

"Giving" Green Paper

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to implement proposals to support charitable giving in the "Giving" Green Paper. [39847]

Mr Hurd: The "Giving" Green Paper sets out a number of proposals to support giving and the consultation on the "Giving" Green Paper is still ongoing. The consultation will close on 9 March 2011. Following this the Cabinet Office will publish the "Giving" White Paper which will set out the proposals to be taken forward and how they will be implemented.

Investment: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value was of foreign direct investment from Israel in each year since 2009. [39740]

Mr Hurd: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates for UK Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) based on survey data collected by the ONS and Bank of England. Headline figures from the annual surveys are published in a Statistical Bulletin, "Foreign Direct Investment", which is available from the UK National Statistics website. The latest figures available at the level of counterpart country are for the year 2009.

During 2009, there was a net flow of £20 million of direct investment from Israel into the UK. The overall level of Israeli direct investment in the UK at the end of 2009 was £441 million.

Lord Browne of Madingley

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the role and responsibilities are of Lord Browne of Madingley on his Department's board; [41249]

(2) what recent discussions Ministers and officials of his Department have had with Lord Browne of Madingley on governance across Whitehall since his appointment. [41251]

Mr Maude: Lord Browne is both the Government Lead Non-Executive Board Member and the Cabinet Office Lead Non-Executive Board Member. The roles and responsibilities associated with these positions are set out in the Enhanced Departmental Boards Protocol, which is published on the Cabinet Office website, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Civil Society Organisations: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has allocated to financial support for *(a)* co-operatives, *(b)* mutual societies, *(c)* charities and *(d)* social enterprises in 2011-12. [40197]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society will invest around £470 million over the SR10 period in programmes for civil society organisations such as co-operatives, mutuals, charities and social enterprises; around £188 million of this in 2011-12. This includes for example the Transition Fund which will support organisations to adapt to a changing funding environment. Many of these funds have not been allocated to specific organisations at this stage, therefore it is not possible to provide detailed information on organisational allocations.

Office for Civil Society: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget is for the Office for Civil Society. [41811]

Mr Hurd: The 2010-11 budget for the Office for Civil Society is published as part of the spring supplementary estimates for the Cabinet Office. This is available on the HM Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_pse_spring10_11.htm

Public Opinion

Natascha Engel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanism the Government use to assess issues raised by members of the public through the Your Freedom website *(a)* for regulatory burdens, *(b)* cost savings to the Exchequer, *(c)* impacts and *(d)* compliance with the convention on human rights. [41666]

Mr Hurd: The Your Freedom website was managed by the Cabinet Office but individual Departments are responsible for analysing ideas relating to their own policy areas. The process of analysing ideas related to Cabinet Office policy is ongoing. Any considered for implementation will undergo a range of tests, including an equality impacts assessment and cost/benefit analysis in line with established departmental processes.

Information relating to individual Government Departments' assessment of ideas relating to their own policy areas is not held centrally.

Public Service: Contractors

Richard Fuller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with non-profit contractors on their potential contribution to the provision of public services. [39765]

Mr Hurd: Government are committed to opening up public services, including enhancing the role of non-profit contractors. We published Modernising Commissioning: Increasing the role of charities, social enterprise, mutuals and co-operatives in public service delivery, in December 2010. There were approximately 400 responses to this paper, the majority of which came from civil society organisations. The Prime Minister, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Minister for Civil Society have met with a number of organisations on this issue. These responses and discussions have informed the development of the Opening Public Services White Paper, due to be published shortly. In addition, Cabinet Office is working with non-profit contractors and statutory partners in nine local areas to develop the Local Integrated Service concept.

Regulation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress the Red Tape Taskforce has made; and if he will make a statement. [41823]

Mr Hurd: This independent taskforce, led by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots, is considering the red tape that affects civil society organisations and will recommend how to reduce its impact. This will contribute to the Government's aim of making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation. The taskforce is coming to the end of its evidence gathering phase.

The taskforce is grateful to the sector, which has submitted more than 600 responses to calls for evidence, and to people who have given their time to be interviewed. The evidence is currently being considered by the taskforce, which intends to report to Ministers in the spring.

Small Businesses

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* micro, *(b)* small and *(c)* medium-sized businesses in (i) Devon and (ii) England. [41554]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of (a) micro, (b) small and (c) medium-sized businesses in (i) Devon and (ii) England. [41554]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of enterprises in England and Devon by employee size band.

Count of enterprises in England and Devon by employee size band

	Employee size band				
	0-9 (Micro)	*10-49 (Small)*	*50-249 (Medium)*	*250 + (Large)*	*Total*
England	1,603,585	158,360	28,455	7,510	1,797,910
Devon county	30,580	2,695	380	65	33,720

Social Enterprises

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of long-term trends in the number of *(a)* community social enterprises and *(b)* corporate social enterprises. [40399]

Mr Hurd: As with other businesses, there is no single legal form for social enterprises. While it is therefore difficult to categorise them, figures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' Annual Small Business Survey suggest that there are more than 60,000 social enterprises in the UK working across all areas of the economy and enabling communities to take responsibility and solve local problems. Evidence also indicates that social enterprises have fared much the same as SMEs in the recession, and indeed a higher proportion of social enterprises compared to SMEs have managed to increase their turnover in the last 12 months.

Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the effects of trends in levels of work-related stress on participation in civic society. [39016]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not made an assessment of the effects of trends in levels of work-related stress on participation in civic society. However, the Government are keen to encourage social action so that people feel that they can play a more active part in society through the giving of time and money. The recently announced Giving Green Paper focuses on how to build on the excellent contribution already made by many people across the country, by making social action more of a social norm.

Transition Fund

Nia Griffith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much has been allocated from the Transition Fund in the financial year 2010-11 to date; [39837]

(2) whether he expects to reopen the opportunity for applications to the Transition Fund for the financial year 2011-12; [39838]

(3) on what timetable he expects monies from the Transition Fund to be distributed; [39839]

(4) how many applications have been received for funding from the Transition Fund to date. [39895]

Mr Hurd: There have been 18 awards worth a total of £1.7 million from the Transition Fund so far. There are no plans to reopen the Transition Fund at present. We expect to distribute £10 million this financial year by the end of March 2011 and a further £90 million for next financial year to be distributed by the end of May 2011. There were just over 1,700 applications to the Transition Fund.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what means charities were notified of the opening of the window for the submission of applications for the Transition Fund. [39840]

Mr Hurd: The £100 million Transition Fund was announced by the Minister for Civil Society on 30 November 2010 at a conference for civil society organisations organised by the House Magazine. A press notice was issued to accompany the announcement. The Office for Civil Society Strategic Partners were informed via email and asked to cascade the message to their members. Big Fund, our delivery partner, arranged a series of 16 regional events across the country to inform local organisations about the fund. A web page was launched on the Big Fund's website to promote the fund. An email list of expressions of interest in the fund was collated and responded to once the fund was launched.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department provided support to small charities for the process of making applications to the Transition Fund. [39841]

Mr Hurd: Big Fund, our delivery partner, arranged a series of 16 regional events across the country to inform local organisations, including small charities about the fund and explain how to apply.

A web page was launched on the Big Fund's website to promote the fund and provide further advice and guidance to charities interested in applying. There was also an inquiry line set up to help organisations that had questions about the application process.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to provide support for charities that work in sectors that do not qualify for the Transition Fund. [40960]

Mr Hurd: The Transition Fund is targeted at supporting civil society organisations that work in a broad range of frontline public service delivery areas and are therefore most vulnerable to reductions in public spending. We have also consulted on future support for a stronger civil society and more announcements will follow shortly.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the geographic distribution of funds allocated through the Transition Fund. [40961]

Mr Hurd: We made first announcements from the £100 million Transition Fund on 15 February 2011. These were to charities based in the following locations: Yorkshire and Humber, Northeast, East Midlands, Southwest, Southeast, London. There will be more announcements of funding over the coming months and so more information on geographical distribution will be available when all the allocations have been made.

Transition Fund: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Transition Fund applications have been received from organisations in the London borough of Bexley. [40554]

Mr Hurd: Two applications to the Transition Fund have been received from organisations in the London borough of Bexley.

Voluntary Organisations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department has made on its "Modernising Commissioning" Green Paper. [41809]

Mr Hurd: Cabinet Office received a significant number of written and oral contributions to the consultation on the "Modernising Commissioning" Green Paper, both through consultation events across England and written submission. As outlined in the Green Paper, these contributions are currently informing the development of the "Opening Public Services" White Paper, which will be published shortly.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what assessment he has made of the reason for trends in levels of participation by *(a)* unemployed people and *(b)* pensioners in informal volunteering since 2008-09; [40199]

(2) what reasons his Department has identified for the trends in levels of formal volunteering in each socio-economic group; [40200]

(3) what information his Department holds on levels of *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal volunteering in each socio-economic group in each of the last 10 years. [40201]

Mr Hurd: Data from the Government's Citizenship Survey provide the levels of volunteering among retired people and unemployed people who participated in regular (at least once a month) informal volunteering in England, plus a breakdown by socio-economic group.

Table 1: Proportion of unemployed people[1] participating in informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year

	Informal volunteering[2] (percentage)
2008-09	4
2009-10	3

[1] Unemployed people are defined as out of paid work but looking for employment (in the four weeks before interview).

[2] None of the year-on-year changes for unemployed people is statistically significant—there are low numbers of unemployed people answering this question meaning that large percentage point changes are required to detect a difference.

Table 2: Proportion of pensioners participating in informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year

	Informal volunteering[1] (percentage)
2008-09	36
2009-10	29

[1] Year on year significant changes for informal volunteering were from 2008-09 to 2009-10 (a decrease from 36% to 29%—though this change may, in part, reflect a change in the way the question was asked in 2009-10), for retired people.

Table 3: Proportion participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) by socio-economic group, England, by year

Percentage

	Formal volunteering			*Informal volunteering*		
Socio-economic classifications[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Higher/lower managerial and professions	35	34	33	38	38	32
Intermediate occupations/small employers	27	26	25	35	35	30

Table 3: Proportion participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) by socio-economic group, England, by year

Percentage

	Formal volunteering			Informal volunteering		
Socio-economic classifications[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Lower supervisory and technical/semi-routine	22	20	20	34	31	28
Routine occupations	17	14	16	31	32	24
Never worked/long term unemployed	19	18	13	30	29	21
Full time students	26	30	30	39	41	32
Not stated/classified	19	20	17	39	27	24

[1] Different socio-economic classifications were used in the Citizenship Survey for 2005, 2003 and 2001.

In relation to the reasons for these trends, the Citizenship Survey has consistently shown, since 2005, that the main barriers to formal volunteering for all groups are related to 'work commitments', 'looking after children/the home', 'people doing other things with their spare time' and 'not hearing about opportunities to get involved'. The Citizenship Survey does not report on the barriers to informal volunteering.

Encouraging social action, including volunteering is one of the three aims of the Government's vision for a big society. To support this aim, in December 2010 the Government published the Giving Green Paper. The Green Paper sought to start a debate on how we can make social action a norm and encourage more people to give their time, including removing barriers to volunteering.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an assessment of the effects of levels of volunteering on levels of civic skills. [41128]

Mr Hurd: We have not made an assessment of how levels of volunteering affect levels of civic skills; these being those skills that are necessary to enable someone to play an active role as a citizen within society. However, we firmly believe that volunteering, along with other forms of social action, supports individual personal development and can enable volunteers to become more rounded and active citizens.

Statistics do show that volunteers feel that they are able to gain skills through their volunteering roles. For example the results of the 2007 Helping Out Survey, published by the Cabinet Office, show that 61% of respondents said that their volunteering role allowed them to gain new skills.

Encouraging social action, including volunteering, is a key aspect of the big society agenda. Government are aiming to do this through specific programmes, such as Community Organisers, which will aim to train 5,000 people to act as catalysts for social action within communities. In addition Government are making new funding opportunities available to the voluntary and community sector, including up to £82.5 million in volunteering funds announced in the Giving Green Paper, which was published in December 2010.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent progress has been made on the Volunteering Infrastructure programme; and if he will make a statement; [41824]

(2) what recent progress has been made in implementing the Volunteering Match Fund; and if he will make a statement. [41826]

Mr Hurd: The Volunteering Infrastructure programme and Volunteering Match Fund were announced in the recently published Giving Green Paper. The details of both are under consideration, and further information on how they will be taken forward and implemented will be outlined in the forthcoming Giving White Paper due to be published in March 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for the regional distribution of the proposed 5,000 community organisers. [41976]

Mr Hurd: The coalition Government have committed to train 5,000 community organisers over the lifetime of this parliament. We will soon announce the national partner for this programme, who will develop and deliver the training framework. Their approach seeks to embed community organisers in communities and organisations that can host them. 10 "kick-start" partners have been identified across England and a regional spread will develop as the programme progresses.

Voluntary Work: Public Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the effect on levels of volunteering of reductions in public sector expenditure. [40203]

Mr Hurd: I meet regularly with representatives of the voluntary and community sector to discuss the impact on their work of the current reductions in public spending.

We are facing the largest peacetime deficit in our history and charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises cannot be immune from the necessary reductions in spending. It is as important for them as for the rest of society that we get public finances under control.

Despite the reductions, Government are committed to working to encourage more social action, including volunteering, as creating a culture of giving time and money is a key aspect in realising the vision for a big society.

We are developing new funding opportunities for charities and voluntary groups, including investing up £82.5 million in funds specifically aimed at the development of volunteering. These funds will include a match fund to encourage private sector investment and a fund to support local volunteering infrastructure. In addition we are engaged in a range of programmes to encourage social action, including the National Citizen Service and Community Organisers programme. Although we anticipate increases in levels of volunteering it would be unrealistic to accurately put a figure on what these might look like at this early stage.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by how much he estimates carbon dioxide emissions from domestic properties will change as a result of the introduction of the Green Deal. [42847]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to meeting the economy wide emissions reductions specified by carbon budgets. These require a 34% reduction in emissions by 2020 relative to 1990 levels.

The impact assessment[1] published alongside the introduction of the current Energy Bill included illustrative examples of the potential savings the Green Deal could deliver. These examples suggest that in the domestic sector, the impact of the Green Deal could be a saving of between 3.9 and 5.9MtCO$_2$e per year in 2020. These examples are only illustrative as the details of the Green Deal policy are still to be determined. More robust estimates will be provided alongside consultation documents later this year.

[1] www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

Carbon Emissions: Shipping and Aviation

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of UK carbon dioxide emissions he estimates are attributable to *(a)* shipping and *(b)* aviation. [42852]

Gregory Barker: DECC published final estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions by source for the period 1990 to 2009 on 1 February 2011. Shipping and aviation emissions are provided at both the domestic and international level (see following table). International shipping and aviation emissions are reported but following IPCC guidance do not count towards the UK totals.

Emissions by source—2009

	Million tonnes, as CO$_2$	*Percentage of UK total*
Domestic aviation	2.0	0.4
Domestic shipping	1.5	0.3
UK total emissions (including LULUCF and excluding international aviation and shipping)	473.7	100
International aviation	32.7	n/a
International shipping	10.5	n/a

Note:
Coverage: United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey. Excludes all overseas territories.
Source:
DECC, 2011.

Carbon Sequestration

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average height, *(b)* minimum required height and *(c)* maximum potential height of absorber towers required for future coal and gas fired power stations fitted with carbon capture and storage technology. [42750]

Gregory Barker: Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is only at the demonstration stage. Consequently the range and absolute values for heights of absorber towers can only be provided as an indication.

Current estimates are that absorber towers would range from about 40m for pre-combustion capture technology to 60-85m for post-combustion. The actual heights of towers will be subject to project specific factors and the rate of technological maturation.

Note that one of the capture technologies—oxyfuel—does not use absorber towers.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42622]

Gregory Barker: No formal assessment has been undertaken of how the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has adhered to the Cabinet Office publication "Principles of Good Employment Practice". However, processes and controls are in place to ensure that the principles are complied with on an ongoing basis by the following means:

All tender documents which are issued by DECC follow the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) best practice guidance.

The Department's competitive tender processes ensure that suppliers comply with OGC guidance. Evidence of compliance is requested in tender documents.

The Department reviews its procurement procedures and documentation regularly to ensure continuing compliance with OGC guidance.

The Department uses outcome based specifications wherever appropriate.

Procurement staff seek opportunities to promote skills training, qualifications and apprenticeships in contracts.

The Department's standard terms and conditions contain clauses covering discrimination, disability and race equality. Should a breach of these conditions occur, the Department has the ultimate option to terminate the contract.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42891]

Gregory Barker: For the current financial year, in the nine months to 31 December 2010 the Department employed one interpreter at a cost of £875.00 in connection with overseas travel.

In this period the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority spend on providing interpretation and translation services for the bilingual (Welsh/English) sessions of the four Wylfa Site Stakeholder Group meetings was £2,454.85 and for the two meetings of the Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group was £1,037.60. These are statutory services under the Welsh Language Act of 1993. One interpreter is present at each meeting together with wireless headsets for all attendees to hear the translation from Welsh to English. Interpreters are sometimes used during NDA overseas visits but costs cannot be separately identified.

The above figures exclude VAT.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010. [42303]

Gregory Barker: Since May 2010, *(a)* 53 actual and *(b)* 52.5 full-time equivalent civil servants have left the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42384]

Gregory Barker: At 1 January 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change had *(a)* 1,178 actual and *(b)* 1,154.25 full-time equivalent civil servants.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42400]

Gregory Barker: In May 2010, the Department of Energy and Climate Change had *(a)* 1,060 actual and *(b)* 1,036.17 full-time equivalent civil servants.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations his Department introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42079]

Gregory Barker: Six statutory instruments made by the Department have come in to force since 18 November 2010 but before 8 February 2011. They are:

The Justification Decision (Generation of Electricity by the EPR Nuclear Reactor) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2844)—came into force on 30 November 2010.

The Justification Decision (Generation of Electricity by the AP1000 Nuclear Reactor) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2845)—came into force on 30 November 2010.

The Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Designated Technical Matters) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2850)—came into force on 30 November 2010.

The Electricity (Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from Renewable Energy Sources) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2715)—came into force on 5 December 2010.

The Submarine Pipelines (Designated Owners) Order 2010 (SI 2010/3048)—came into force on 5 January 2011.

The Lynn and Inner Dowsing Offshore Wind Farms (Amendment) Order 2011 (SI 2011/84)—came into force on 24 January 2011.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked since 7 December 2010. [42189]

Gregory Barker: Since 7 December 2010, the Department has not revoked any statutory instruments in full.

However, the Energy Bill, introduced into the House of Lords on 8 December 2010, sets out proposals to repeal the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) in England, Scotland and Wales. This will reduce regulatory burdens, support the Government's localism agenda and remove redundant legislation from the statute book.

DECC is committed to reducing the burden of regulation on UK business, and a series of internal and external exercises have been or are being conducted towards this aim. For example, in June 2010 my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Lord Marland), responsible for the Department's regulatory agenda, wrote to 250 of the Department's key stakeholders asking for their views on ways to reduce DECC's regulatory burden. The response letter from Lord Marland and a summary of responses to this exercise was published in November 2010 on the DECC internet site:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/betterreg/betterreg.aspx

Following on from this exercise, DECC plans to repeal a number of statutory instruments as well as powers under primary legislation (in total, 28 repeals). The exact processes for making the repeals are still being explored (suitable vehicles for the repeals are being considered, and consultation with relevant parties such as the devolved Administrations needs to take place for certain policies).

Electricity Market Reform

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed changes to the electricity market on the ability of the UK to attract investment in demand-side measures. [40832]

Charles Hendry: The proposed reforms to the electricity market, and in particular the capacity mechanism, will encourage demand reduction measures (negawatts) to compete on an equal basis with supply side generation. We have no specific estimate for the level of investment that will be made in demand-side measures, but the electricity market reform will support demand-side investment as a proportion of the estimated £110 billion capital required to support new generation by 2020.

Renewable Energy: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements on energy subsidy reform were reached at the European Council meeting in Brussels on 4 February 2011. [41854]

Charles Hendry: The European Council agreed on further work between the Commission and member states on the implementation of the renewable energy directive. There was no specific agreement on energy subsidy reform. The terms of national support schemes are a matter for member states within European rules.

Energy: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in what proportion of privately-owned homes valued *(a)* up to £100,000, *(b)* between £100,000 and £250,000, *(c)* between £250,000 and £500,000, *(d)* between £500,000 and £750,000, *(e)* £750,000 and £1 million and *(f)* over £1 million his Department expects energy efficiency measures to be installed through the Green Deal. [41591]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal finance will help householders to invest in energy efficiency measures; take-up will not depend on, or be determined by, the value of the property. Indicative analysis suggests that the price of a property rarely reflects its level of energy efficiency which would indicate that owners of properties in all price bands will be able to benefit from the Green Deal. The proposed Energy Company Obligation component of Green Deal will focus a major part of its effort on subsidised offerings to vulnerable households on low incomes, which should help to drive take-up across the spectrum of property value, including in less expensive properties.

No estimates of take-up have yet been made, but work is underway to develop understanding of this area and the recent Green Deal Impact Assessment provides illustrative scenarios to assist debate.

Energy: Prices

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing a cap on the amount by which gas and electricity companies can increase prices to the consumer in any given period. [42001]

Charles Hendry: Effective competition is the key to ensuring that prices are as low as possible for consumers. Ofgem, the market regulator, monitors the market closely to ensure consumers pay a fair price for their energy and British residential customers pay some of the lowest prices for gas and electricity in the EU. Following the recent announcement of price increases by some energy suppliers, Ofgem has launched a review of the retail energy market to see if further action is needed to protect customers, which we welcome. Ofgem plans to complete the review by March 2011.

Fuel Oil: Regulation

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve regulation of the domestic heating oil market. [42848]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS, concerning the off-grid energy market. I am keen that the reasons for the high heating oil prices and supply issues this winter are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority.

The market study by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) will provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly. I look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

Fuel Poverty

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many low-income households with children are classified as living in fuel poverty. [41788]

Gregory Barker: In England in 2008, the most recent year for which fuel poverty statistics are available, around 394,000 households that contained somebody aged under 16 and had a household income in the lowest three income deciles were fuel poor.

Most recent figures for Scotland, from the SHCS 2009, show that around 46,000 fuel poor households contained somebody under 16 and had an income in the lowest three deciles.

Comparable figures are not available for Wales.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress his Department made towards the Government's objective to reduce emissions from central Government offices by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [42543]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 436W.

There is not much to report since last month, except that we continue to work hard to reduce our emissions and that current figures show that DECC has now saved over 120 tonnes since 14 May 2010.

Imports: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions embedded in imported products; what consideration he has given to introducing a system of consumption-based emissions accounting alongside the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory; and if he will request the Committee on Climate Change to examine the matter. [42767]

Gregory Barker: We recognise that it is important to consider emissions associated with UK consumption as well as those from UK production. The UK has an important global influence in terms of embedded greenhouse gas emissions associated with imported products and DEFRA's Sustainable Consumption and Production programme has been working for several years to identify and help reduce the lifecycle carbon and other environmental impacts that are associated with UK consumption.

We do not currently report our emissions regularly on a consumption basis. The DEFRA-funded research report "Development of an Embedded Carbon Emissions Indicator" developed an initial data and model framework to allow assessment of environmental impacts associated with UK trade flows. DEFRA has recently let a contract to update this indicator. While this research provides a satisfactory indication of the trend in carbon dioxide emissions relating to UK consumption, we do not consider the estimates are sufficiently reliable for use in monitoring performance or setting targets.

I have not made a request, but I understand from the Committee on Climate Change's December 2010 report on the fourth carbon budget that it considers looking at embedded emissions.

Low Carbon Innovation Fund

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the decision-making process is for the allocation of funding for the Low Carbon Innovation Fund announced in the comprehensive spending review. [42731]

Gregory Barker: DECC has been allocated over £200 million over four years to support the development of green energy technologies. Up to £60 million of that funding has been allocated to support the development of manufacturing infrastructure near port sites. In order to prioritise the remaining funding, I will be drawing on a wide range of evidence sources and views. I want to ensure that we focus our support on technologies and programmes where there are clear market failures and where the funding will have the greatest impact on meeting the Government's climate change and energy objectives, as well as, where appropriate, supporting the growth of the UK green economy. I expect to be able to provide more details in a few months' time.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of companies worldwide currently constructing reactor vessels for use in new build nuclear power stations; in which countries such companies are based; and how many reactor vessels were constructed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [42751]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold the requested information.

It is the role of the Government to remove the barriers to investment in new nuclear power stations but for energy companies to make the investments and to build new nuclear power stations. It is these project developers who are best placed to ensure the availability of the items required to support their plans.

I speak regularly with the energy companies and the reactor vendors and they do not believe the availability of reactor pressure vessels will cause a delay to new nuclear plant. Ultra heavy forgings for pressure vessels need to be ordered a long time in advance and vendors already have slots booked with existing suppliers to ensure that when they are building reactors around the world the necessary elements are available.

Open-cast Mining: Competition

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the level of competition in the open-cast mining industry; and if he will make a statement. [42212]

Charles Hendry: No specific assessment of the open-cast mining industry has been made, but with, at present, 35 operating surface coal mines of varying size throughout Wales, Scotland and England being worked by 16 different operators, competition appears healthy. It should additionally be noted that the industry's licensing body, the Coal Authority, has a policy of seeking competing expressions of interest (among industry and on its website) in respect of any reserves over which it receives a licence application.

Power Stations: Security

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the policing of energy infrastructure establishments. [42772]

Charles Hendry: I met with the right hon. and noble Baroness Neville-Jones of Hutton Roof on 11 October 2010 to discuss progress made by our respective Departments to take forward work in developing a strategy for the policing of the civil nuclear estate and the critical national infrastructure. The status of this work is reflected in the DECC structural reform plan monthly implementation update on the Number 10 website:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/#

Beyond this piece of work, officials from DECC and the Home Office are in regular contact in order to keep the protection, including policing, of key energy sites under constant review.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the introduction of the feed-in tariff scheme on energy prices in each of the five years from April 2010. [42259]

Gregory Barker: The introduction of feed-in tariffs (FITs) in April 2010 is expected to result in increased average retail electricity prices for both domestic and business customers as suppliers are expected to pass through their additional costs to customers. We assume that the impact on retail prices is the same across sectors, as costs are assumed to be spread evenly over total consumption. This results in the following estimated impact on retail prices for domestic and non-domestic customers for each of the five years from April 2010:

	£/MWh (excl. VAT)
2010-11	0.1
2011-12	0.2
2012-13	0.4
2013-14	0.7
2014-15	1.0

Impacts on retail prices are represented in 2009 prices, undiscounted. Figures have been rounded to the first decimal place. Further information can be found in 'Estimated impacts of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills' at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/236-impacts-energy-climate-change-policies.pdf and

'Impact Assessment of Feed-in Tariffs for Small-Scale, Low Carbon, Electricity Generation' at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the decision to cap the feed-in tariff scheme in 2010/11 was taken; and what consultation process was undertaken before that decision was made. [42323]

Gregory Barker: Information on the projected costs of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) was included in the impact assessment of the FITs scheme. This was published by the previous Administration in February 2010 following public consultation in summer 2009.

Last year's spending review committed to improving the efficiency of FITs and to making savings of £40 million in 2014-15. This is equivalent to 10% of the £400 million[1] spend originally projected for that year. The final cost profile to 2014-15 will depend on the timing and outcome of the first review of FITs which has now started. Any changes to tariffs resulting from the review will be subject to consultation and parliamentary scrutiny as required by the Energy Act 2008.

[1] It should be noted that (a) costs are presented in net terms, i.e. net of the value of electricity exported back to the grid; and (b) costs are additional-to-BAU, where BAU impacts are impacts that would occur in the absence of FITs (i.e. under the RO).

Renewables Obligation Certificates

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Renewables Obligation Certificate banding review; and when he expects the proposed consultation as part of that review to commence. [42324]

Charles Hendry: We commenced a scheduled review of the support bands in the renewables obligation in October 2010. This will determine the levels of support for large-scale electricity generation from 2013-17. On 8 December 2010, I announced that we would accelerate the banding review by a year, and would consult on bands this summer, with the Government response by autumn. This will give generators and investors certainty on support levels a year earlier than previously planned.

Work to assess the deployment potential and generation costs of renewable electricity technologies is ongoing, and we will publish the independent report on costs and deployment potential this spring, ahead of the summer consultation. We will shortly commence work to model different banding scenarios consistent with meeting our 2020 renewable energy target.

Smart Electricity Grid

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to facilitate the development of a smart electricity grid. [41769]

Charles Hendry: We are developing policies to ensure that electricity system infrastructure can meet the key challenges for the future network and system balancing. These policy issues will form part of the electricity market reform White Paper this spring. We are setting up with Ofgem a Smart Grid Forum to guide the actions that we are taking to address future challenges for electricity networks.

DECC is also managing the implementation phases of the smart metering programme, which will see the rollout of smart meters to GB households and many businesses, paving the way for smart grids.

Ofgem has allocated £500 million in funding to encourage innovation in distribution networks over the next five years. In addition, by the end of this financial year, DECC will have awarded £2.7 million to projects through its Smart Grids capital grants programme under the Low Carbon Investment Fund.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable his Department has set for the development of a smart electricity grid. [41770]

Charles Hendry: Development of a smart grid will be an incremental process. The Electricity Networks Strategy Group (ENSG), jointly chaired by DECC and Ofgem, set out a high level framework for smart grid development in its Route Map published in February 2010. In line with the timetable set out there, we expect the period up to 2015 to focus on the development of and trialling of smart technologies and approaches on the grid. This will interact with the smart meter roll out.

Between 2015 and 2020, we would expect the first layer of a smart grid to be rolled out on a larger scale where a benefit has been shown through trialling. Roll out will need to continue post-2020, largely driven by the increased electrification of transport and heating and greater penetration of distributed generation.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential benefits for smart utility networking of allocating spectrum on a lightly-regulated basis. [41772]

Charles Hendry: We have not made an assessment of the various options for communications platforms for smart grid as we believe the market will establish the communications system that will best serve the needs of the electricity system. The question of spectrum allocation is dependent on the choices made on communications platforms.

Solar Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 546W, on solar power, (1) what definition his Department uses of solar photovoltaic *(a)* micro, *(b)* small-scale, *(c)* medium-scale and *(d)* large-scale generation; [42972]

(2) for what reason his Department is using the 50 kW statutory micro-generation definition as the starting point for a review of large-scale 1 megawatt to 5 megawatt solar farms. [42971]

Gregory Barker: Section 41(4) of the Energy Act 2008 provides the statutory definition of "small-scale low-carbon generation" for the purposes of defining the scope of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme. This also sets the specified maximum capacity for small-scale FITs at 5 megawatts. As my previous answer confirmed, 50 kilowatts is used in the statutory definition of "microgeneration" and therefore provides the starting point for determining what is large scale for the purposes of the FITs scheme.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of the feed-in tariff scheme on the manufacture of solar power products in the UK. [42260]

Gregory Barker: The UK solar photovoltaic market has seen an increase in production capacity as a result of the introduction of the feed-in-tariff. Sharp reports increased production by 25% and Romag, operating in the north-east, are increasing production by 30%. More broadly, there are opportunities in the supply chain and the solar industry reports that jobs in the sector have increased significantly over the past year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many megawatts of solar photovoltaic generating capacity have been installed since the launch of the feed-in tariff scheme on 1 April 2010. [42317]

Gregory Barker: Live information data obtained on 18 February from Ofgem's 'FITs Installations Statistical Report' show 60.5 MW of solar photovoltaics (22,722 installations) is currently registered for Feed-in Tariffs (FITs). This includes schemes installed prior to 1 April 2010.

DECC produces a quarterly table of FITs capacity statistics, ET 5.6, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricitv/electricitv.aspx

This table shows that, at the end of December 2010, 45 MW (17,200 installations) of solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity had been accredited on the FITs scheme. Of this, 32.9 MW (12,382 installations) was installed after 1 April 2010.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria he used in making the decision to extend the fast-track feed-in tariff review of solar farms to include all community projects greater than 50 kilowatts; and if he will make a statement. [42318]

Gregory Barker: Under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme, tariff levels are based on technology and generating capacity. The reference of 50kW is simply the threshold used in the existing definition of microgeneration which is why it provides the starting point for defining the scope of the fast-track review.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value is of solar photovoltaic feed-in tariff payments made since 1 April 2010. [42319]

Gregory Barker: This information is not currently available in the form requested. However, Ofgem have published data from the quarterly levelisation process which shows a total of £2,686,712.55 paid for all technologies up to 30 September 2010. Levelisation data can be viewed at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Levelisation/Pages/Levelisation.aspx

Levelisation data for 1 October to 31 December 2010 will be made available on Ofgem's website soon.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department published its 2010-11 projections of solar photovoltaics update under the feed-in tariff scheme; and in what format that publication took place. [42322]

Gregory Barker: Information on take-up was included in the Impact Assessment of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme published under the previous Administration in February 2010. However, details on level of projections of all eligible technologies under the scheme was sent to electricity suppliers at the start of the scheme. This information was also provided in response to specific requests and used in meetings with stakeholders.

It confirms projections of 20,309 solar PV installations in 2010-11 with no large scale schemes in FITs during the first three years of FITs.

A copy of the projections can be found in the House Library.

Syngas

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the commercial potential for using syngas for energy production in the UK. [41762]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change funded a study by E4Tech in 2009 of the potential for bioSNG in the UK. The study was published in April 2010 and is available on the website of the National Non-Food Crops at:

http://www.nnfcc.co.uk/tools/potential-for-biosng-production-in-the-uk-nnfcc-10-008

It concluded that in the long-term, bioSNG could be an economically attractive option for providing low carbon heat.

Water Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding mechanisms he plans to put in place to encourage investment in the marine renewables sector following the closure of the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund. [41593]

Gregory Barker: The Department is currently developing its detailed plans for the allocation of the £200 million, to support the development of low carbon technologies, announced in the spending review—the needs of wave and tidal energy technologies are being considered as part of that process.

A scheduled banding review of renewables obligation support for all technologies, including marine technologies, began last October. The review will consider whether any changes are needed to the current bands. We intend to consult on any changes to the bands this summer and to confirm the revised bands in the autumn, one year earlier than previously announced. Any changes in support levels will come into effect on 1 April 2013, (2014 for offshore wind) subject to state aids and parliamentary approval.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the £200 million allocated for the development of low-carbon technologies in the comprehensive spending review will be used to support marine renewables. [41594]

Charles Hendry: DECC is engaged in a detailed business planning process and in parallel we are assessing the innovation needs of a wide range of low carbon technologies, including offshore wind, marine, bio-energy, and how they can be addressed. Innovation funding decisions will be made in light of the outcome of that work, and these are expected to be in late spring.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage marine energy device manufacturers to locate in the UK. [41595]

Gregory Barker: We have moved to establish a new UK Marine Energy Programme, that will address the barriers affecting the UK marine energy sector's ability to develop and deploy wave and tidal energy devices at a commercial scale.

Through the programme we will put in place a coherent programme of policies across Government, led by DECC, to enable the UK Marine Energy sector to move from prototype testing to commercial deployment.

With the right framework of policies in place we can both develop our indigenous UK marine energy industry and attract investment and manufacturing into the UK.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to implement the recommendations contained in the Marine Energy Action Plan published in March 2010. [42416]

Gregory Barker: We will take into account a wide evidence base in developing our support for the development of wave and tidal energy in the UK as part of our work under the UK Marine Energy Programme. The Marine Energy Action Plan will form one such source and its recommendations will feed into this.

Water Power: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to announce grant funding to the marine renewables sector in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [42321]

Gregory Barker: The Department is currently developing its detailed plans for the allocation of the £200 million, to support the development of low carbon technologies, announced in the spending review—the needs of wave and tidal energy technologies are being considered as part of that process.

The Department will make announcements on its innovation funding for the coming spending review period once its ongoing detailed business planning concludes.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the remainder of the Low Carbon Innovation Fund announced in the comprehensive spending review will be allocated to financing the commercial development of marine renewables. [42730]

Gregory Barker: DECC is engaged in a detailed business planning process and in parallel we are assessing the innovation needs of a wide range of low carbon technologies, including offshore wind, marine, bio-energy, and how they can be addressed. Innovation funding decisions will be made in the light of the outcome of that work, and these are expected to be in late spring.

Wind Power: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much subsidy was provided to wind power under the Non Fossil Fuels Obligation scheme; and what his Department's policy was on the use of subsidy for wind power as a step towards commercial viability between 1987 and 1997. [41757]

Charles Hendry: Information on the non-fossil fuel obligation (NFFO) is held by the Non-Fossil Purchasing Agency Limited (NFPA). The NFPA have provided the following information on the premium paid to wind between 1998-99 and 2000-01:

	Premium paid (£ million)
1998-99	35.1
1999-2000	7.3
9 months to December 2001	6.3

Data on the subsidy paid prior to 1998-99 are not readily available.

The first commercial wind farm in the UK started generating electricity in 1991, supported by the non-fossil fuel obligation. It is evident that wind power was not commercially viable without subsidy during the period 1987-97, given that it was a relatively new technology, hence the introduction of the NFFO.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what applications for consent have been made for offshore wind developments in the last two years; what objections have been made to those applications; who made such objections; and on what grounds such objections were made. [42372]

Charles Hendry: Two applications for consent for proposed offshore wind farm developments have been submitted in the last two years—for the Dudgeon (560 MW, developer Dudgeon Offshore Wind Ltd.) and Westermost Rough (245 MW, DONG Westermost Rough Ltd.) projects.

There have been seven objections to Westermost Rough and eight to Dudgeon. These objections have been received from members of the public, organisations representing fishermen, the Ministry of Defence, National Air Traffic Services, the Norfolk Coast Partnership and the RSPB. The objections have been made on the grounds of impacts on birds, fish, fishing activity, military radar, civil aviation services and marine navigation.

World War II: Mining

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to acknowledge the contribution made by miners during the Second World War. [42781]

Charles Hendry: In 2007 the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge was introduced to recognise those who were in the unique position to have either been selected or volunteered as part of the Bevin Boys scheme.

Although coal miners who were already employed in the pits made a similar contribution to the war effort they were one of many reserved occupations such as railway and dock workers, farmers, agricultural workers, schoolteachers and doctors. It would not be right to single out one occupation for recognition when many millions of men and women who were employed in other reserved occupations also played a major role in the wartime effort.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 February 2011

EDUCATION

Academies

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on *(a)* first and *(b)* primary schools becoming academies. [37016]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* All primary and first schools which are rated outstanding, or which are good with outstanding features, are eligible to convert to academy status. In addition, any school can apply with other schools as part of a formal partnership, providing at least one is rated outstanding or good with outstanding features, or they join an existing academy trust with a proven track record of school improvement.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools that have opted to convert to Academy status did so without prior consultation with *(a)* pupils, *(b)* parents and *(c)* staff since May 2010. [38487]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* Schools applying to convert to Academy Status have a statutory requirement to consult interested parties (for example, students, parents, and the local community). Schools are free to choose how they wish to do this. The consultation process must legally be completed before the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State is signed. Prior to the Funding Agreement being signed, the school's governing body needs to confirm that it has consulted interested parties, the date on which the consultation was carried out, and that the views obtained were considered in the decision to convert to an academy.

The current employer of school staff (either the local authority or governing body depending on the type of school) is required to conduct a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) consultation with all teaching and support staff and their unions as part of the staff transfer process.

Academies: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether any Academy schools have had their revenue funding reduced in lieu of a sponsor's contribution; [35858]

(2) which Academy schools have had their revenue funding reduced in lieu of a sponsor's contribution; and by how much that funding has been reduced in each case. [36806]

Mr Gibb *[holding answers 24 and 31 January 2011]:* The first academy projects required sponsors to make a capital contribution towards the cost of constructing academy buildings. In a small number of cases where a sponsor was unable to meet its capital sponsorship commitment, the Department agreed to make a payment to the contractor and then recover the amount by reducing the academy's general annual grant. The Department's expectation is that the sponsor should then make contributions to the academies to make good these deductions. There are currently eight academies whose revenue funding is being reduced in lieu of a sponsor's contribution. The following table shows each academy, along with the amount of funding that has been reduced.

Name of academy	*Amount of funding reduced (£ million)*
Lambeth	1.34
Northampton	1.35
Paddington	0.43
Manchester	1.66
Macmillan	0.10
The City Academy (Bristol)	0.17
Westminster	1.5
Bede	0.30

Adoption: Peterborough City Council

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were *(a)* available for permanent adoption and *(b)* adopted in the Peterborough city council local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [36583]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* The number of children who were *(a)* available for permanent adoption and *(b)* adopted in the Peterborough city council local authority area, in each year since 1999, is shown in the following table. Information is not available for 1997 and 1998 as Peterborough city council first provided data on looked after children in 1999 following a local authority reorganisation. "Available for permanent adoption" has been defined as children who were "placed for adoption at 31 March".

Children who were looked after by Peterborough city council who were placed for adoption at 31 March or who were adopted during the year[1, 2]: Years ending 31 March 1999 to 2010: Coverage: England

Number

	Children placed for adoption at 31 March		*Children adopted during the year*	
	England	*Peterborough*	*England*	*Peterborough*
1999	3,000	25	2,200	30
2000	3,600	15	2,700	20
2001	4,000	30	3,100	20
2002	4,200	40	3,400	25
2003	3,700	25	3,500	25
2004	3,600	15	3,800	20
2005	3,400	25	3,800	10
2006	3,000	10	3,700	20
2007	2,700	20	3,300	15
2008	2,900	30	3,200	25
2009	2,700	20	3,300	40
2010	2,300	25	3,200	25

[1] Numbers at national level have been rounded to the nearest 100. At local authority level, numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Abuse

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to tackle child exploitation *(a)* domestically and *(b)* internationally. [37379]

Tim Loughton: To tackle child sexual exploitation effectively there must be a collaborative approach involving Ministers from a range of Government Departments as well as local authority children's services, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and organisations such as the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), Barnardo's and others, including voluntary organisations around the country.

Within Government, and working with national and local partners, I am leading our urgent consideration of what further action needs to be taken to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation. This will build on existing guidance and our developing understanding of this appalling abuse including through local agencies' work around the country on effective prevention strategies, identifying those at risk of sexual exploitation, supporting victims, and taking robust action against perpetrators.

The UK is committed to working with others, including our European partners, to prevent human trafficking. The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on 5 May 2008 and aims to ratify it as soon as possible. The UK also opted in to the proposed Directive on Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse on 28 June 2010.

Children: Protection

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what impact indicators for child protection his Department is using as part of its 2011-2015 Business Plan. [37218]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 February 2011]*: The Business Plan for the Department for Education was published on 8 November 2010. This contained in draft a set of input and impact indicators and a revised set will be included when the finalised Business Plan is published in April. While the Business Plan did not include any specific impact indicators on child protection, the plan made clear the importance the Department places on improving arrangements for protecting children from harm, and set out a commitment to publish Professor Eileen Munro's child protection review and implement reforms. Ministers asked Professor Munro to undertake this review of child protection in England in June 2010, and specifically to consider whether there are better ways of using performance data to improve social work practice. Professor Munro published her interim report on 1 February 2011. She argued that process-based targets and performance indicators have skewed local priorities to focus on specific aspects of process, rather than the quality of practice. Professor Munro will make final recommendations to Government in April 2011.

Class Sizes

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have class sizes of over 30 pupils in each local authority area. [39888]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is in the table.

The number of classes by size has been published at local authority level as part of the Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010 Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

in tables 14a and 14c. For England, the percentage of classes in maintained primary schools with 31 or more pupils is 9.4%. For state-funded secondary schools, this figure is 6.5%. For Key Stage 1 classes in maintained primary schools, 1.8% of those classes have 31 or more pupils.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: percentage of schools with one or more classes of 31 or more pupils[3], as at January 2010

By local authority area and government office region in England

	Maintained Primary[1]			State-funded Secondary[1,2]		
	Total number of schools	Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils	% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils	Total number of schools	Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils	% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils
England	16,971	6,621	39.0	3,333	2,428	72.8
North East	887	354	39.9	198	134	67.7
Darlington	29	16	55.2	7	7	100.0
Durham	228	84	36.8	36	27	75.0
Gateshead	69	20	29.0	11	8	72.7
Hartlepool	30	16	53.3	5	3	60.0
Middlesbrough	42	26	61.9	8	4	50.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	72	32	44.4	14	12	85.7
North Tyneside	56	26	46.4	15	12	80.0
Northumberland	125	33	26.4	52	30	57.7
Redcar and Cleveland	45	20	44.4	11	6	54.5
South Tyneside	49	23	46.9	9	5	55.6
Stockton-on-Tees	60	37	61.7	13	7	53.8
Sunderland	82	21	25.6	17	13	76.5

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: percentage of schools with one or more classes of 31 or more pupils[3], as at January 2010

By local authority area and government office region in England

	Maintained Primary[1]			*State-funded Secondary[1,2]*		
	Total number of schools	*Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*Total number of schools*	*Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*
North West	2,483	1,052	42.4	456	334	73.2
Blackburn with Darwen	55	22	40.0	10	4	40.0
Blackpool	29	15	51.7	8	6	75.0
Bolton	94	48	51.1	17	11	64.7
Bury	63	28	44.4	14	10	71.4
Cheshire East	124	55	44.4	20	17	85.0
Cheshire West and Chester	129	57	44.2	20	15	75.0
Cumbria	274	58	21.2	37	29	78.4
Halton	52	19	36.5	8	4	50.0
Knowsley	53	27	50.9	7	4	57.1
Lancashire	484	198	40.9	82	64	78.0
Liverpool	131	39	29.8	31	21	67.7
Manchester	130	85	65.4	24	19	79.2
Oldham	89	41	46.1	15	10	66.7
Rochdale	69	33	47.8	14	11	78.6
Salford	80	33	41.3	15	7	46.7
Sefton	76	38	50.0	21	14	66.7
St Helens	54	25	46.3	10	8	80.0
Stockport	88	49	55.7	14	14	100.0
Tameside	74	24	32.4	16	14	87.5
Trafford	69	38	55.1	18	11	61.1
Warrington	70	37	52.9	12	11	91.7
Wigan	104	42	40.4	20	17	85.0
Wirral	92	41	44.6	23	13	56.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,834	884	48.2	316	257	81.3
Barnsley	81	48	59.3	13	12	92.3
Bradford	155	97	62.6	29	24	82.8
Calderdale	84	41	48.8	14	12	85.7
Doncaster	103	43	41.7	17	15	88.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	126	58	46.0	18	17	94.4
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	71	43	60.6	14	10	71.4
Kirklees	150	59	39.3	31	22	71.0
Leeds	219	123	56.2	38	31	81.6
North East Lincolnshire	48	19	39.6	11	9	81.8
North Lincolnshire	66	37	56.1	13	12	92.3
North Yorkshire	323	92	28.5	47	32	68.1
Rotherham	99	49	49.5	16	13	81.3
Sheffield	133	86	64.7	27	24	88.9
Wakefield	122	63	51.6	18	17	94.4
York	54	26	48.1	10	7	70.0
East Midlands	1,650	695	42.1	296	218	73.6
Derby	76	43	56.6	14	10	71.4
Derbyshire	350	154	44.0	47	35	74.5
Leicester	81	28	34.6	18	12	66.7
Leicestershire	225	98	43.6	54	38	70.4
Lincolnshire	277	110	39.7	60	41	68.3
Northamptonshire	260	78	30.0	41	30	73.2
Nottingham	79	45	57.0	14	9	64.3
Nottinghamshire	285	132	46.3	45	40	88.9
Rutland	17	7	41.2	3	3	100.0
West Midlands	1,793	705	39.3	401	270	67.3
Birmingham	299	103	34.4	75	39	52.0
Coventry	85	28	32.9	19	14	73.7
Dudley	78	35	44.9	21	14	66.7

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: percentage of schools with one or more classes of 31 or more pupils[3], as at January 2010

By local authority area and government office region in England

	Maintained Primary[1]			*State-funded Secondary[1,2]*		
	Total number of schools	*Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*Total number of schools*	*Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*
Herefordshire	81	22	27.2	15	13	86.7
Sandwell	94	39	41.5	18	12	66.7
Shropshire	133	56	42.1	22	18	81.8
Solihull	64	26	40.6	14	11	78.6
Staffordshire	295	122	41.4	68	54	79.4
Stoke-on-Trent	71	51	71.8	17	13	76.5
Telford and Wrekin	55	29	52.7	14	8	57.1
Walsall	86	30	34.9	19	12	63.2
Warwickshire	194	91	46.9	36	27	75.0
Wolverhampton	76	29	38.2	18	10	55.6
Worcestershire	182	44	24.2	45	25	55.6
East of England	2,020	648	32.1	420	307	73.1
Bedford	51	13	25.5	22	14	63.6
Central Bedfordshire	96	17	17.7	33	18	54.5
Cambridgeshire	201	98	48.8	30	28	93.3
Essex	468	171	36.5	78	63	80.8
Hertfordshire	396	127	32.1	82	67	81.7
Luton	51	11	21.6	12	7	58.3
Norfolk	365	107	29.3	52	43	82.7
Peterborough	57	18	31.6	11	8	72.7
Southend-on-Sea	37	13	35.1	12	8	66.7
Suffolk	255	58	22.7	78	42	53.8
Thurrock	43	15	34.9	10	9	90.0
London	1,786	532	29.8	428	256	59.8
Inner London	691	126	18.2	151	58	38.4
Camden	41	6	14.6	9	2	22.2
City of London	1	0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hackney	53	9	17.0	12	4	33.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	34	8	23.5	9	4	44.4
Haringey	63	14	22.2	12	6	50.0
Islington	44	6	13.6	10	4	40.0
Kensington and Chelsea	26	3	11.5	5	2	40.0
Lambeth	61	13	21.3	13	7	53.8
Lewisham	67	7	10.4	14	4	28.6
Newham	66	16	24.2	15	8	53.3
Southwark	70	9	12.9	16	3	18.8
Tower Hamlets	69	17	24.6	15	6	40.0
Wandsworth	56	13	23.2	11	5	45.5
Westminster	40	5	12.5	10	3	30.0
Outer London	1,095	406	37.1	277	198	71.5
Barking and Dagenham	47	24	51.1	9	7	77.8
Barnet	86	23	26.7	21	14	66.7
Bexley	57	27	47.4	16	14	87.5
Brent	59	19	32.2	15	9	60.0
Bromley	74	42	56.8	17	15	88.2
Croydon	85	32	37.6	22	16	72.7
Ealing	65	26	40.0	13	10	76.9
Enfield	65	11	16.9	18	13	72.2
Greenwich	64	12	18.8	13	7	53.8
Harrow	50	10	20.0	10	6	60.0
Havering	59	27	45.8	18	10	55.6
Hillingdon	65	28	43.1	18	10	55.6
Hounslow	56	25	44.6	14	14	100.0
Kingston upon Thames	34	4	11.8	10	9	90.0
Merton	43	15	34.9	8	6	75.0

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2] schools: percentage of schools with one or more classes of 31 or more pupils[3], as at January 2010

By local authority area and government office region in England

	Maintained Primary[1]			*State-funded Secondary[1,2]*		
	Total number of schools	*Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*Total number of schools*	*Of which, number of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*	*% of schools with classes of 31 or more pupils*
Redbridge	52	34	65.4	17	12	70.6
Richmond upon Thames	41	15	36.6	8	6	75.0
Sutton	41	14	34.1	14	11	78.6
Waltham Forest	52	18	34.6	16	9	56.3
South East	2,629	983	37.4	493	393	79.7
Bracknell Forest	30	13	43.3	6	6	100.0
Brighton and Hove	54	27	50.0	9	8	88.9
Buckinghamshire	181	61	33.7	34	29	85.3
East Sussex	155	75	48.4	27	21	77.8
Hampshire	428	169	39.5	71	60	84.5
Isle of Wight	46	9	19.6	19	9	47.4
Kent	449	175	39.0	100	72	72.0
Medway	85	23	27.1	18	9	50.0
Milton Keynes	89	30	33.7	12	12	100.0
Oxfordshire	232	85	36.6	34	29	85.3
Portsmouth	53	14	26.4	10	7	70.0
Reading	37	16	43.2	7	5	71.4
Slough	27	14	51.9	11	8	72.7
Southampton	61	16	26.2	12	8	66.7
Surrey	308	110	35.7	53	48	90.6
West Berkshire	66	22	33.3	10	9	90.0
West Sussex	234	85	36.3	38	36	94.7
Windsor and Maidenhead	45	18	40.0	13	9	69.2
Wokingham	49	21	42.9	9	8	88.9
South West	1,889	768	40.7	325	259	79.7
Bath and North East Somerset	62	22	35.5	13	11	84.6
Bournemouth	26	9	34.6	10	8	80.0
Bristol, City of	106	41	38.7	21	13	61.9
Cornwall	237	89	37.6	31	29	93.5
Devon	315	120	38.1	37	30	81.1
Dorset	134	44	32.8	34	27	79.4
Gloucestershire	245	104	42.4	41	31	75.6
Isles of Scilly	1	0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Somerset	63	26	41.3	10	8	80.0
Plymouth	68	34	50.0	16	13	81.3
Poole	27	13	48.1	9	5	55.6
Somerset	220	102	46.4	39	30	76.9
South Gloucestershire	93	36	38.7	16	12	75.0
Swindon	61	27	44.3	11	10	90.9
Torbay	31	15	48.4	8	5	62.5
Wiltshire	200	86	43.0	29	27	93.1

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

Source:
School Census

Classroom Assistants: Finance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce the allocation of the *(a)* work force modernisation and *(b)* higher level teaching assistant grant for local authorities. [39949]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) wrote to directors of children's services on 30 June to notify them that:

> the work force modernisation and developments grants would not be paid beyond November 2010 and
>
> the support staff training and qualification grant (which included funding for the training of higher level teaching assistants) would not be paid during 2010-11.

This is consistent with the White Paper we published in November 2010 "The Importance of Teaching" which stated that head teachers were best placed to decide how to develop and deploy school support staff.

College of Social Work: Social Care Institute for Excellence

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will investigate the use of funds allocated by his Department to the Social Care Institute for Excellence and the Interim Board of the College of Social Work for the establishment of the College of Social Work. [36594]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* Following the publication of the Social Work Task Force report, the Department for Education committed to match £2.5 million of funding made available by the Department of Health to support the establishment of an independent, national college of social work. This Department's funds have not yet been allocated and officials are in discussions regarding the appropriate time that further funds will need to be made available to meet the emerging business development plan. Both Departments have recently investigated concerns raised with us in relation to the college's use of public funds and are reassured that there is no actual or proposed misuse.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what role he plans the Social Care Institute for Excellence to have in the operation of the College of Social Work. [36596]

Tim Loughton*[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has been asked to facilitate the establishment of the College of Social Work, providing administrative support and expertise in a developmental phase of two years. Neither Government nor SCIE seek to influence the form or function of the emerging college. SCIE will have no role in the governance of the college that emerges.

College of Social Work: Unison

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions his Department had with other organisations before awarding Unison a contract for trade union services to the College of Social Work. [36268]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not seek to influence any partnership agreements the college might establish once it emerges from the current development stage and has not entered into any agreements or contracts with Unison or any other organisation on membership or trade union services.

The establishment process for the college was guided from January to September 2010 by a development group with representation from across the social work sector, including frontline practitioners, employer representatives, regulators, educators, work force organisations and the British Association of Social Workers, Unison and Aspect. Since September interim co-chairs and an interim board have been appointed who are taking forward this work and have maintained links with all parties.

Curriculum

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects his Department's review of the national curriculum to be completed. [40309]

Mr Gibb: The review of the national curriculum for England is being conducted in two phases. We intend to publish new programmes of study for English, mathematics, science and physical education in autumn 2012, with the first teaching in maintained schools from September 2013. New programmes of study for all other subjects that are to form part of the new national curriculum will be published by September 2013, with teaching in maintained schools from September 2014.

Further details are in the remit for the review, a copy of which is in the House Libraries.

Departmental Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how long on average he spends managing expenses and allowances claims; and if he will make a statement. [24520]

Tim Loughton: My ministerial colleagues and I follow the Department's policy, rules and guidance on expenses and allowances in the course of our official duties. However, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Photographs

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on photography since May 2010. [35828]

Tim Loughton: Since May 2010, the Department has spent £7,306.48 on photography.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31917]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not provided embargoed briefings during the requested period.

Departmental Redundancy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff in his Department have been made redundant since May 2010; and how much it has spent on redundancy costs. [36151]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The Department has made no compulsory redundancies since May 2010. The Department has, however, reduced its headcount through voluntary early release and since May 2010 there have been 150 approved staff releases at a cost of £8.4 million.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37370]

Tim Loughton: In the period 6 May 2010 to 26 January 2011 the Department for Education has revoked a number of regulatory statutory instruments or significant parts of statutory instruments. These are detailed in the following table. However, as indicated by the third column of the table, in some cases the content of the revoked statutory instrument has been largely replaced.

Regulations revoked	*Revoking instrument*	*Comments*
The Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001	The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced. Coming into force 1 April 2011.
The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended)	The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced.
The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) Regulations 1989	The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked so far as they applied to maintained schools in England, but replaced.
The National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001	The Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced.
The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Appropriate Officer and Schedule 7 Prescribed Persons) Regulations 2010	The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Appropriate Officer and Schedule 7 Prescribed Persons) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	
The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Supervisory Authorities and Devolution Alignment) Order 2010	The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Supervisory Authorities and Devolution Alignment) (Amendment) Order 2010	The devolution alignment aspect of the Order was revoked.
The Education (School Teachers' Pay and Conditions) Order 2009	The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Order 2010	Revoked but replaced.
The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	
The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	The School Information (England) (Amendment) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	
The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2004	The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced.
The Children's Trust Board (Children and Young People's Plan) (England) Regulations 2010	The Children's Trust Board (Children and Young People's Plan) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	
The Education (Local Authority Performance Targets) (England) Regulations 2005 (along with four sets of Regulations which amended the 2005 Regulations)	The Education (Local Authority and School Performance Targets) (Revocation and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010	Coming into force 30 January 2011
Regulations 3 and 4 of the Education (School Attendance Targets) (England) Regulations 2007	The Education (School Attendance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	
The Education (Provision of Information by Independent Schools) (England) Regulations 2003 (along with a set of Regulations which amended the 2003 Regulations)	The Education (Independent Educational Provision in England) (Provision of Information) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* names and *(b)* salaries are of each senior civil servant who has (i) joined, (ii) moved posts within and (iii) left his Department since May 2010. [36498]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: The information for the Department is set out in the following tables:

Appointments (includes new appointees and promotions into senior civil service)

Name[1] (at director level and above only)	*Gross basic salary*
Deputy director	£70,000-£74,999
	£65,000-£69,999
	£60,000-£64,999
Simon Parkes	£135,000-£139,999

Departures (including terminations, transfers to other Government Departments, outward secondments and loans out and others who can return to the Department, e.g. on career break)

Name[1] (at director level and above only)	*Gross basic salary*
Deputy director	£70,000-£74,999
	£80,000-£84,999
	£60,000-£64,999
	£90,000-£94,999
	£75,000-£79,999
	£65,000-£69,999
Michael Hearty	£90,000-£94,999
Ian Taylor	£125,00-£129,999

[1] Senior civil service naming and salary protocols are based on the latest published Transparency Agenda exercise criteria.

Departmental Travel

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much has been spent on travel by officials of his Department since May 2010. [35205]

Tim Loughton: The total amount spent on staff travel since May 2010 is £2,171,487 and includes all travel costs incurred between May 2010 and January 2011.

The corresponding staff travel figure for May 2009 to January 2010 is £4,023,795.

Departmental Written Questions

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 292-3W, on social services: children, what audit work Ofsted performed after 23 November 2010 to provide an answer to the question tabled by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley; how many staff at each grade were involved; how much staff time the audit took; and what errors were identified in the data originally prepared for the answer. [36175]

Tim Loughton: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 31 January 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

An explanation of the context to the relevant data gathering may be helpful. Prior to receipt of PQ 025834, Ofsted was already carrying out an audit of all our serious childcare incident data dating back to 1 April 2007. The data requested in PQ 025634 covered very similar ground to this audit review, staff worked on the two processes together, and answering the PQ accurately was reliant on the audit being completed. As a result the work on PQ 025634 cannot be separated entirely from the wider ongoing audit. However, we have estimated the amount of time dedicated specifically to the PQ after 23 November 2010.

After 23 November 2010, Ofsted continued to audit data in respect of PQ 025634 dating back to April 2007. These data are stored in different formats and locations, and officials carefully and systematically cross-examined them to ensure there were no errors or duplication. This took one member of staff at Band A (grade 7) half a day, six staff at B1 (Senior Executive Officer) grade a total of eight and a half days and one member of staff at B2 (Higher Executive Officer) grade one day. The total staff time spent is therefore eight staff for a total of ten days.

Four errors were identified and corrected during the audit process. They all related to inaccurate recording or calculation of the ages of children.

I hope this is helpful and clarifies the work we have undertaken in this area. A copy of this reply has been sent to Tim Loughton MP, Minister for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department is making in developing an alternative to the education maintenance allowance. [35617]

Mr Gibb: We are currently working with school, college and training organisation representatives and others, including the Sutton Trust, to develop the arrangements for a package of financial support which is more closely targeted on those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to participation.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the cost to the public purse of terminating the education maintenance allowance (EMA), including *(a)* any penalty clause for the termination of the EMA element of his Department's learner support services contract with Capita and *(b)* any staff costs; and if he will make a statement. [38934]

Mr Gibb: We are working with the Young People's Learning Agency, which administers the education maintenance allowance scheme on behalf of the Department for Education, to assess any costs that may arise from the reduction in value of Capita's contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has responded separately to the hon. Member on the question regarding penalty payments and staff costs, and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 11 February 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ38934.

The contract with Capita currently supports a number of learner support schemes in addition to Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) so the decision to end EMAs will not trigger termination of the contract and there will therefore be no consequent liability to pay a penalty.

This is however a significant change to the scale of the contract with Capita and we have begun commercial discussions with Capita as to the costs involved in reducing the scale of their operation. These costs are likely to involve staff redundancies in Capita as a result of the end of EMA. These negotiations will also cover the need for on-going delivery of the remaining schemes.

As you will appreciate, I cannot anticipate the outcome of these commercial negotiations, which are likely to take several months to complete.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding has been allocated under each budget heading under his Department's Learner Support Services contract with Capita between 2009 and 2013; and what proportion of the contract is allocated to delivering education maintenance allowance. [38935]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Blaydon with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 11 February 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ38935 that asked:

"How much funding has been allocated under each budget heading under his Department's Learner Support Services contract with Capita between 2009 and 2013; and what proportion of the contract is allocated to delivering education maintenance allowance."

The budgets for the administration of each scheme under the Learner Support contract with Capita for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

£

Learner support schemes	*2009-10 Budget*	*2010-11 Budget*
EMA	35,000,000	25,000,000
Adult Learning Grant	4,500,000	3,300,000
Care to Learn	4,275,000	1,500,000
Dance and Drama Awards	100,000	200,000
Sixth Form College Childcare	335,000	100,000

£

Learner support schemes	*2009-10 Budget*	*2010-11 Budget*
Residential Support Scheme	335,000	120,000
Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work	4,000,000	1,120,500
Professional and Career Development Loans	n/a	1,000,000

There are differing levels of administrative complexity across the schemes and this is reflected in the budget required for each scheme. 77.3% of the budget for the contract is attributed to EMA in 2010-11.

The amounts budgeted for 2011-12 (and 2012-13) are still to be determined and are dependent on the shape and size of the service for these periods.

Education: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the levels of *(a)* dedicated schools grant, *(b)* pupil premium funding and *(c)* funding for nursery provision in Worcestershire in 2010-11. [37491]

Mr Gibb: Worcestershire's dedicated schools grant is worth £297.478 million in 2010-11, based on a per pupil amount of £4,027.71.

The pupil premium will be introduced from April 2011 and will be worth:

£430 for each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM);

£430 for each looked after child; and

£200 for each service child.

No funding is available for the pupil premium in 2010-11. The January 2010 pupil count allows an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. Based on the January pupil count, Worcestershire would receive an estimated pupil premium of £3.8 million. However, the pupil premium for 2011-12 could be higher or lower depending on actual pupil numbers in January 2011.

Worcestershire have budgeted to spend £14 million on children on early years provision in 2010-11, as recorded on their 2010-11 Section 251 Budget Statement.

English Baccalaureate

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of increasing the range of subjects that would satisfy the humanities requirement of the English Baccalaureate to include religious studies alongside history and geography. [38191]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* For the purposes of the 2010 performance tables the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate measure was either history or geography. We have not included religious education (RE) as fulfilling the humanity requirement of the English Baccalaureate because it is already a compulsory subject. One of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE.

However we recognise, as many schools do, the benefits that religious education can bring to pupils. This is why the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. Success in all subjects studied at GCSE will also continue to be recognised by other performance table measures, as it has in the past. We are open to arguments about how we can further improve the measures in the performance tables and will review the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 tables.

Free Schools

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which applications to become free schools have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful. [37039]

Mr Gibb: As at 29 January 2011, eight proposals to open a free school have been given approval to pre-opening stage, the final stage in the approval process. These schools are as follows:

ARK Conway, Hammersmith and Fulham

Discovery New School, West Sussex

Etz Chaim, Barnet

The Free School, Norwich

I-Foundation, Leicester City

St Luke's Church of England Primary School, Camden

Stour Valley Community School in Suffolk

Woodpecker Hall, Enfield

A further 27 proposals have been given approval to proceed to the preceding business case and plan stage and their full plans will be considered in due course.

60 proposals have so far been unsuccessful.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he plans to allocate to each free school to develop projects. [40240]

Mr Gibb: Support for all free school projects is considered and approved on a case by case basis, based on the needs of each individual project.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many proposals for free schools have been made in the Black Country. [39679]

Mr Gibb: As at 9 February 2011, we have received three proposals from groups and individuals within the four Black Country local authorities (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton).

Further Education: Absenteeism

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of students in further education were persistent absentees in each year since 2004. [39139]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* Information on pupils who were persistent absentees is not collected for further education establishments. The Department collects information on pupil absence for pupils aged 5 to 15 at the start of the school year from maintained primary, secondary, all special schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Information on absence can be found in Statistical First Release 07/2010 "Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2008/09" at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000918/index.shtml

GCSE

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average number of GCSE entries was per student reaching the end of school year 11 in maintained schools in academic year *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2009-10. [27598]

Mr Gibb: In 1997, the average number of GCSE entries among pupils in maintained schools aged 15 at the start of the academic year was 8.33.

In 2010, the average number of GCSE entries among pupils in maintained schools at the end of key stage 4 was 7.69.

Short courses have been counted as half a GCSE entry and double courses as two entries.

Prior to 2005, statistics were based on pupils aged 15. In 2005, statistics based on pupils reaching the end of key stage 4 were introduced, which aimed to take better account of the attainment of pupils learning at different rates. Since 2009, all figures have been based exclusively on pupils reaching the end of key stage 4.

Source:

School and College Performance Tables.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which were the 100 lowest performing schools on the basis of proportion of students gaining five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available; and in which local authority area each such school is located. [30671]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows the lowest performing schools, based on the percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics GCSEs, by local authority. The table lists only those open maintained mainstream schools (including city technology colleges and academies, but excluding hospital schools and pupil referral units) with results published in the 2010 School and College Performance Tables with more than 10 pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4.

Local authority	*School*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics GCSEs*
North East		
Middlesbrough	Unity City Academy	28
Newcastle upon Tyne	All Saints College	21
Newcastle upon Tyne	Excelsior Academy	25
Northumberland	Bedlingtonshire Community High School	30
Northumberland	Northumberland CofE Academy	28
Redcar and Cleveland	Gillbrook College	23
Redcar and Cleveland	Redcar Community College A Specialist Visual and Performing Arts Centre	28
Sunderland	Academy 360	21
Sunderland	Red House Academy	30
North West		
Blackburn with Darwen	Blakewater College	26
Blackpool	Beacon Hill High School Business and Enterprise College	28
Bury	Radcliffe Riverside School	29
Cumbria	Beacon Hill Community School	28
Knowsley	Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning (Community)	30
Lancashire	Fulwood Academy	29
Lancashire	Shuttleworth College	23
Lancashire	Skerton Community High School	29
Liverpool	Parklands High School	23
Liverpool	Shorefields School	28
Manchester	Manchester Creative and Media Academy for Boys	28
Manchester	Manchester Enterprise Academy	27
St Helens	Newton-le-Willows Community High School	30
Wigan	PEMBEC High School	23
Wirral	Rock Ferry High School	29
Yorkshire and the Humber		
Barnsley	Carlton Community College	27
Barnsley	Priory School and Sports College	30
Barnsley	The Dearne High—A Specialist Humanities College	30
Bradford	Aire Valley School	27

Local authority	*School*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics GCSEs*
Bradford	Belle Vue Boys' School	29
Bradford	Bradford Academy	24
Bradford	Dixons Allerton Academy	27
Calderdale	Park Lane Learning Trust	23
Calderdale	St Catherine's Catholic High School	30
Doncaster	De Warenne Academy	30
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	David Lister School	26
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	Endeavour High School	30
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	Sir Henry Cooper School	21
Leeds	Primrose High School	25
Leeds	South Leeds Academy	29
Leeds	Swallow Hill Community College	24
Sheffield	Abbeydale Grange School	23
Sheffield	Chaucer Business and Enterprise College	30
Sheffield	Parkwood Academy	28
East Midlands		
Derby	Sinfin Community School	26
Leicester	New College Leicester	28
Leicester	Riverside Business and Enterprise College	30
Lincolnshire	Gleed Boys' School	27
Lincolnshire	Haven High Technology College	28
Lincolnshire	Saint Bede's Catholic Science College	20
Lincolnshire	The Mablethorpe Tennyson High	28
Northamptonshire	Weston Favell School	27
Nottingham	Hadden Park High School	27
Nottingham	Nottingham University Samworth Academy	21
Nottinghamshire	The Queen Elizabeth's (1561) Endowed School	30
West Midlands		
Coventry	Barr's Hill School and Community College	29
Sandwell	St Michael's CofE High School	30
Solihull	The Archbishop Grimshaw Catholic School	30
Staffordshire	Hagley Park Sports College	22
Stoke-on-Trent	James Brindley High School	30
Walsall	Blue Coat Church of England Comprehensive School A Performing Arts Specialist College	30
Walsall	Frank F Harrison Engineering College	24
Walsall	Sneyd Community School	27
Worcestershire	Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	28
East of England		
Cambridgeshire	Coleridge Community College	29
Cambridgeshire	Thomas Clarkson Community College	27
Bedfordshire, Central	All Saints Academy Dunstable	29
Essex	Furtherwick Park School	29
Essex	St Peter's Church of England and Specialist Arts College	19
Hertfordshire	The Bushey Academy	21
Norfolk	City Academy Norwich	26
Norfolk	The Hewett School	28
Peterborough	The Voyager School	24
Suffolk	Newmarket College	29
Thurrock	The Grays School Media Arts College	30
London		
Haringey	Greig City Academy	30
Lewisham	Prendergast—Ladywell Fields College	29
Newham	Eastlea Community School	29
Greenwich	The Eltham Foundation School	28
Hounslow	Hounslow Manor School	28
Merton	St Marks Church of England Academy	23

Local authority	*School*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C (or equivalent) including English and Mathematics GCSEs*
South East		
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury Vale Academy	26
Hampshire	Everest Community College	17
Hampshire	Oak Farm Community School	27
Kent	Angley School—A Sports College	28
Kent	Astor College for the Arts	30
Kent	Aylesford School—Sports College	27
Kent	Folkestone Academy	25
Kent	The Charles Dickens School	28
Kent	The Isle of Sheppey Academy	30
Kent	The Malling School	26
Kent	The Marlowe Academy	14
Medway	Strood Academy	29
Milton Keynes	Leon School and Sports College	25
Milton Keynes	The Milton Keynes Academy	19
Portsmouth	Charter Academy	24
Reading	John Madejski Academy	28
Southampton	Chamberlayne College for the Arts	30
Southampton	Oasis Academy Mayfield	29
Southampton	Woodlands Community College	30
West Sussex	The Regis School	30
South West		
Bristol, City of	Merchants' Academy	25
Bristol, City of	Oasis Academy Brightstowe	29
Bristol, City of	Oasis Academy Bristol	29
Plymouth	Sir John Hunt Community Sports College	28
Poole	Carter Community School	23.

Source:
2010 School and College Performance Tables.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children have achieved five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in each year from 1997 to 2010. [30672]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table:

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving 5+ A-C grades inc. English and Mathematics at GCSE and equivalent. Years: 1996/97 to 1999/2000[2] (final)*

	1996/97	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000[2]*
(a) England (maintained sector)[4]	32.5	34.0	39.4	37.3
(b) Local authority/Government office region				
North East	28.0	28.4	30.8	32.9
Darlington	28.1	28.1	32.7	37.3
Durham	27.4	27.8	29.7	31.8
Gateshead	31.5	32.1	34.0	35.1
Hartlepool	19.6	24.5	29.3	26.6
Middlesbrough	21.0	19.4	23.8	26.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	24.9	25.0	27.5	27.9
North Tyneside	31.0	30.7	32.7	34.6
Northumberland	34.2	36.5	37.3	40.8
Redcar and Cleveland	30.0	29.4	35.1	35.6
South Tyneside	27.3	30.8	32.4	33.0
Stockton-on-Tees	28.9	30.1	30.9	35.8
Sunderland	26.1	22.7	26.0	28.4
North West	32.2	32.9	35.1	36.7
Blackburn with Darwen	[5]—	27.6	26.8	31.2
Blackpool	[5]—	24.9	27.5	28.8
Bolton	30.3	30.6	33.3	32.6

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving 5+ A-C grades inc. English and Mathematics at GCSE and equivalent. Years: 1996/97 to 1999/2000[2] (final)*

	1996/97	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000[2]*
Bury	37.3	39.5	44.4	45.
Former Cheshire	37.5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Cheshire	[5]—	42.4	43.7	46.5
Cumbria	33.4	33.6	37.0	38.
Halton	[5]—	24.7	28.9	29.7
Knowsley	14.6	14.4	17.4	16.5
Former Lancashire	34.6	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Lancashire	[5]—	38.2	39.8	41.3
Liverpool	23.8	24.5	26.6	28.3
Manchester	19.1	20.9	22.5	23.
Oldham	27.4	27.5	30.7	31.3
Rochdale	25.3	26.1	29.7	29.
Salford	22.1	24.1	25.0	25.
Sefton	35.6	34.7	39.2	39.
St. Helens	30.0	30.6	34.2	37.5
Stockport	40.8	40.3	41.0	43.
Tameside	28.5	29.1	30.6	32.
Trafford	44.3	45.5	47.1	50.
Warrington	[5]—	36.2	37.9	40.5
Wigan	34.6	33.3	34.7	36.5
Wirral	35.3	35.0	36.9	39.
Yorkshire and the Humber	28.8	29.9	31.6	33.
Barnsley	21.0	22.6	25.0	25.3
Bradford	20.8	22.8	24.6	25.2
Calderdale	29.4	31.7	33.4	34.
Doncaster	24.8	24.7	27.9	28.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	34.2	36.4	39.4	40.
Kingston upon Hull, City of	14.8	16.8	15.8	19.
Kirklees	30.5	29.7	31.7	33.3
Leeds	28.5	29.7	31.3	33.
North East Lincolnshire	22.8	24.1	27.6	27.
North Lincolnshire	30.2	32.7	32.9	35.
North Yorkshire	42.7	44.3	46.3	47.
Rotherham	27.8	28.0	31.1	31.3
Sheffield	29.3	29.9	29.0	32.5
Wakefield	28.2	30.0	31.6	33.7
York	41.0	38.7	40.2	41.
East Midlands	31.9	33.1	35.1	36.
Derby	26.7	26.1	31.2	31.
Derbyshire	33.6	35.6	39.0	40.
Leicester	24.8	26.3	29.5	25.
Leicestershire	34.8	35.1	37.3	38.3
Lincolnshire	39.3	39.4	40.8	42.7
Northamptonshire	31.3	33.8	35.2	36.5
Nottingham	[5]—	18.5	18.9	19.
Former Nottinghamshire	28.0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Nottinghamshire	[5]—	32.9	32.9	34.2
Rutland	40.7	35.2	44.6	45.
West Midlands	30.1	31.2	33.8	35.
Birmingham	25.0	25.9	28.6	31.3
Coventry	27.1	28.2	30.3	31.7
Dudley	31.4	33.4	35.8	37.
Hereford and Worcester	34.8	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Herefordshire	[5]—	37.8	41.7	43.
Sandwell	17.7	18.7	21.3	21.
Former Shropshire	37.0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Shropshire	[5]—	43.3	44.4	45.
Solihull	38.6	39.6	39.1	43.
Staffordshire	34.5	34.3	37.8	38.
Stoke-on-Trent	22.5	24.6	27.3	26.
Telford and Wrekin	[5]—	33.4	36.6	38.2

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving 5+ A-C grades inc English and Mathematics at GCSE and equivalent. Years: 1996/97 to 1999/2000[2] (final)*

	1996/97	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000[3]*
Walsall	25.4	25.8	28.9	29.3
Warwickshire	34.9	36.2	38.1	39.9
Wolverhampton	23.3	25.8	30.2	30.5
Worcestershire	[5]—	35.6	38.1	39.2
East of England	35.4	38.0	39.5	40.4
Bedfordshire[4]	33.9	35.0	35.9	38.2
Former Cambridgeshire	34.9	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Cambridgeshire	[5]—	39.7	41.5	41.4
Former Essex	35.0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Essex	[5]—	38.2	39.5	40.6
Hertfordshire	41.5	44.8	45.9	46.9
Luton	23.3	26.1	26.8	28.8
Norfolk	34.0	36.5	37.3	37.7
Peterborough	[5]—	32.0	32.2	31.4
Southend-on-Sea	[5]—	40.7	44.6	44.3
Suffolk	33.6	36.0	39.8	40.5
Thurrock	[5]—	23.7	26.5	29.1
London	29.9	32.4	33.9	35.1
Inner London	21.4	22.8	24.3	25.5
Camden	35.1	34.6	35.0	38.6
Hackney	17.3	16.9	18.1	22.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	32.5	35.0	38.7	37.7
Haringey	17.9	19.9	22.0	21.8
Islington	16.5	15.6	20.2	17.5
Kensington and Chelsea	28.0	29.5	31.4	37.4
Lambeth	18.6	19.7	22.9	20.5
Lewisham	19.4	22.2	23.6	24.9
Newham	23.2	23.9	24.2	23.1
Southwark	17.1	18.2	19.9	21.6
Tower Hamlets	15.0	17.7	20.3	20.5
Wandsworth	23.2	26.3	25.8	31.2
Westminster	22.5	24.8	25.3	27.5
Outer London	33.8	37.0	38.3	39.6
Barking and Dagenham	22.0	22.5	24.1	26.5
Barnet	42.2	46.7	47.2	47.7
Bexley	35.6	37.7	39.2	40.8
Brent	30.1	34.9	33.4	38.2
Bromley	42.5	45.5	47.5	50.2
Croydon	28.4	30.2	32.0	32.2
Ealing	28.2	32.9	32.9	33.2
Enfield	31.4	33.4	36.5	35.0
Greenwich	19.9	23.3	22.8	22.9
Harrow	40.0	41.9	44.2	45.8
Havering	37.9	39.7	43.6	45.6
Hillingdon	30.1	33.9	35.4	36.6
Hounslow	31.3	36.1	36.3	36.4
Kingston upon Thames	44.7	48.7	46.5	52.3
Merton	30.1	31.2	33.3	32.9
Redbridge	39.3	44.3	46.5	47.6
Richmond upon Thames	36.5	40.4	42.1	41.5
Sutton	47.3	51.2	52.8	56.2
Waltham Forest	25.0	27.6	28.3	30.0
South East	37.2	38.9	40.9	42.1
Berkshire	40.0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Bracknell Forest	[5]—	37.7	38.1	38.6
Brighton and Hove	27.1	29.6	32.1	33.2
Buckinghamshire	50.4	51.0	53.5	53.5
East Sussex	33.3	35.6	37.0	40.2
Hampshire	37.6	40.1	42.3	44.1
Isle of Wight	32.0	28.5	34.8	33.9

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving 5+ A-C grades inc. English and Mathematics at GCSE and equivalent. Years: 1996/97 to 1999/2000[2] (final)*

	1996/97	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000[3]*
Former Kent	37.5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Kent	[5]—	40.5	42.0	42.7
Medway	—	36.4	37.8	36.6
Milton Keynes	21.9	22.0	23.3	25.9
Oxfordshire	36.7	36.1	37.9	40.4
Portsmouth	18.5	20.2	21.5	23.0
Reading	[5]—	35.0	36.6	39.2
Slough	[5]—	36.7	40.8	42.2
Southampton	29.4	29.9	30.7	30.3
Surrey	40.0	43.0	45.5	47.0
West Berkshire	[5]—	42.6	44.9	45.7
West Sussex	38.3	38.9	41.5	42.0
Windsor and Maidenhead	[5]—	46.5	47.2	48.0
Wokingham	[5]—	48.2	50.4	52.2
South West	36.1	37.9	39.4	40.8
Isles of Scilly	27.8	57.1	45.2	53.8
Bath and North East Somerset	40.2	41.8	42.3	45.2
Bournemouth	40.5	41,7	41.0	40.2
Bristol, City of	22.6	21.0	22.0	23.2
Cornwall	36.0	38.1	40.1	41.2
Former Devon	33.8	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Devon	[5]—	37.0	37.3	38.6
Dorset	36.6	38.5	40.0	42.8
Gloucestershire	41.6	43.7	45.2	46.6
North Somerset	38.3	41.2	40.9	42.7
Plymouth	[5]—	33.1	38.5	38.5
Poole	40.8	44.0	45.9	48.7
Somerset	37.6	39.6	41.2	42.4
South Gloucestershire	33.3	33.8	37.0	37.2
Swindon	34.9	34.2	35.9	35.5
Torbay	[5]—	41.3	39.7	42.6
Wiltshire	39.0	40.1	41.5	44.4

[1] Age at the start of the academic year.
[2] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.
[3] In 1999/2000, local authority, Government office region and total figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] Maintained schools only, including maintained special schools and CTCs. Academies were not in existence during this time period.
[5] Local authority not in existence at that time.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools achieved five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, for *(a)* under 20 per cent., *(b)* 20 to 30 per cent., *(c)* 30 to 35 per cent., *(d)* 35 per cent. to 40 per cent., *(e)* 40 to 45 per cent. and *(f)* 45 to 50 per cent of pupils in the latest year for which figures are available. [30673]

Mr Gibb: The breakdown of the number of schools by the percentage of pupils that achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics is shown in the following table. The figures shown are for only those open maintained mainstream schools (including city technology colleges and academies, but excluding hospital schools and pupil referral units) with results published in the 2010 school and college performance tables with more than 10 pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4.

Percentage of pupils in the school who achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A to C including English and mathematics*	*Number of schools*
Under 20%	4
Equal to 20% and less than 30%	78
Equal to 30% and less than 35%	143
Equal to 35% and less than 40%	215
Equal to 40% and less than 45%	311
Equal to 45% and less than 50%	353

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of students achieved five GCSE at grades A* to C or equivalent in each year from 1990 to 2010; and what proportion achieved these grades, excluding *(a)* non-GCSE qualifications, *(b)* non-GCSE qualifications and religious studies GCSEs and *(c)* non-GCSE qualifications, religious studies GCSEs and vocational GCSEs in each year. [32408]

Mr Gibb: The figures are presented in the following table:

	Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5+ GCSEs at A-C or the equivalent*	*Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5+ GCSEs or vocational GCSEs at A*-C (a)*	*Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5+ GCSEs or vocational GCSEs at A*-C, when Religious Studies is excluded (b)*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at A*-C, when Religious Studies is excluded (c)*
1995	43.5	43.5	43.0	43.0
2000	49.3	48.9	48.5	48.5
2005	56.8	53.2	52.5	51.1
2010	75.4	57.8	56.7	55.1

[1] Prior to 2005, statistics were based on pupils aged 15. In 2005, statistics based on pupils reaching the end of Key Stage 4 were introduced, which aimed to take better account of the attainment of pupils learning at different rates. Since 2009, all figures have been based exclusively on pupils reaching the end of Key Stage 4.

Source:

School and College Performance Tables

Further years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for 2010 are revised, all other years are final.

GCSE: Religious Education

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils *(a)* were entered for GCSEs in religious education and *(b)* passed such examinations at grades A* to C in each year since 1997. [31287]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table.

	Religious education	
	Number of pupils entered for full GCSE	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C in full GCSE*
1996/97	100,909	54,715
1997/98	94,165	51,728
1998/99	96,554	54,934
1999/2000	95,644	55,228
2000/01	100,445	58,903
2001/02	103,301	62,660
2002/03	113,970	70,867
2003/04	123,478	80,559
2004/05	130,367	89,252
2005/06	143,863	100,760
2006/07	154,204	109,677
2007/08	163,967	118,625
2008/09	167,267	122,644
2009/10	176,301	129,349

In addition to the full GCSE courses shown in the table above, religious education is the most popular subject to be taken as a short course GCSE. In 2010, 228,435 pupils entered the short course religious education GCSE, 118,133 of whom achieved grade A*-C.

These figures include all schools. Data for 1996/97 to 2006/07 are based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year. Data for 2007/08 onwards are based on all pupils at the end of key stage 4.

The latest available figures are published on the departmental website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml

Geography: Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he intends to respond to Ofsted's report on geography in schools; and if he will publish his response. [41192]

Mr Gibb: We welcome the Ofsted report "Geography, Learning to make a world of difference" which was published by Ofsted on 4 February 2011, and the recommendations that it makes to schools.

We want pupils to learn a core set of knowledge and skills at school, and a child's education is diminished without a sound understanding of geography. It is clear that some subjects of which all pupils should have a good grasp, are now less popular choices at GCSE. The English Baccalaureate will therefore recognise the work of pupils who achieve an A*-C in a humanity GCSE such as geography.

In addition, our review of the National Curriculum will take a root and branch look at how we can put a clearer focus on content and the essential knowledge that all children should acquire while leaving heads and teachers free to decide how to teach this most effectively.

Holocaust Educational Trust

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to encourage schools to participate in the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust. [37543]

Mr Gibb: This Department greatly values the important contribution the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) makes to educating young people about the lessons of the Holocaust. That is why this Department funds the HET's "Lessons from Auschwitz project" which gives the opportunity for two students (aged 16-18) from every school/sixth form college in England to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is a matter for the devolved Administrations to decide whether to encourage their schools to participate in the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Languages: Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the average number of hours of foreign language teaching primary school children receive per week. [37941]

Mr Gibb: Research published by the Department in July 2009 measured the amount of time spent in class per week teaching languages. In 2006, between 24% (in year 6) and 30% (in year 3) of primary schools taught around half an hour of languages per week, while 29% (in year 4) and 36% (in year 6) taught around an hour per week. In 2007, the median figure was 35-40 minutes per week and in 2008 40-45 minutes per week.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department provides for the teaching of modern foreign languages in primary schools. [37943]

Mr Gibb: The Department has provided funding to local authorities to support the teaching of languages in primary schools until March 2011. This totalled £32.5 million in 2010-11. At least two-thirds of this money is devolved to schools.

The Department has provided funding to CILT, the National Centre for Languages, to support the teaching of languages in primary schools. In 2010-11, this totalled £1.6 million.

The Department has provided funding to the Training and Development Agency for Schools to run a primary initial teacher training (ITT) course in a languages specialism involving some 900 trainees a year in 40 ITT providers. This totalled £1.67 million in 2010-11.

Missing Persons: Children

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on dealing with children who run away from home. [39781]

Tim Loughton: Guidance for local authorities on dealing with children who run away from home and care is provided in the document "Statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care" published in 2009. It is available on the DFE website at:

www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguarding/a0066653/young-runaways

Outdoor Science

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the conclusions and recommendations of the report "Outdoor Science" by the Association for Science Education Outdoor Science Working Group. [39861]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to improving the standard of science education. We recognise the value of fieldwork in enhancing and enriching the experience of teaching of the sciences and welcome contributions to developing good practice which can be shared with schools and teachers. The Department is currently undertaking a review of the National Curriculum including science. This review will provide the ASE the opportunity to feed in their recommendations and conclusions.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials of his Department have been appointed to work on the internal review of personal, social, health and economic education. [36623]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: One full-time official is planning the review of PSHE. This official is supported by the policy team which has responsibility for PSHE and pastoral care. This team has six officials.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 572W, on schools: health education, when he plans to publish the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* participants in the internal review of personal, social, health and economic education; and if he will make a statement. [37988]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]*: Decisions relating to the process and time scale for the internal PSHE Review have not yet been taken. The Department for Education is currently considering options and further information will be available in due course.

GCSE: Physical Education

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many GCSEs in physical education were *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* passed at grades A* to C in each year from 1995 to 2010. [33166]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table:

Physical education	*Number of pupils entered for full GCSE*	*Number of pupils achieving A*-C in full GCSE*
1994/95	63,257	26,598
1995/96	75,352	33,192
1996/97	80,914	36,917
1997/98	83,665	41,970
1998/99	93,503	47,368
1999/2000	96,769	50,845
2000/01	105,651	56,284
2001/02	111,750	61,681
2002/03	110,744	62,677
2003/04	121,433	70,734
2004/05	141,945	83,671
2005/06	151,185	91,201
2006/07	154,629	94,751
2007/08	148,257	92,677
2008/09	135,454	88,282
2009/10	122,525	84,212

These figures include all schools.

Data for 1994/95 to 2006/07 are based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

Data for 2007/08 onwards are based on all pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

The latest available figures are published on the departmental website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml

Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35397]

Tim Loughton: Information on key public appointments made since May 2010 is published in individual press releases. These should include information on remuneration. Press releases are available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews

In addition, information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for the 2010-11 period will be published in due course.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much additional funding for schools in Nuneaton constituency he expects to be provided through the introduction of the proposed pupil premium. [34745]

Mr Gibb: The deprivation pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Censuses. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or the Young People's Learning Agency if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

The January 2010 School Censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. In Nuneaton in January 2010 there were 2,035 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £875,050. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed. The number of eligible pupils in 2011 could be higher or lower.

Notes:

1. The numbers, rounded to the nearest 5, are based on FSM full-time equivalent pupils in maintained primary schools, secondary schools, academies and maintained special schools who were in reception to year 11 at the January 2010 School Census. Please note suppressed figures for schools with FSM counts less 3 have not been included in these totals.

2. The above estimates do not include FSM-eligible pupils in Pupil Referral Units: those recorded on the Alternative Provision census (i.e. funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in non-maintained special schools, further education establishments, etc.) or those that are not following the national curriculum although these pupils are eligible for the pupil premium if they are aged between four and 15 years.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in receipt of free school meals *(a)* attend schools and *(b)* are resident in Mid Sussex constituency. [38837]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the following table. The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: school meal arrangements[4,5], Mid Sussex, January 2010

	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Pupils attending schools in Mid Sussex constituency			
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	7,600	347	4.6
State-funded secondary[1,2]	7,033	283	4.0
Special[3]	234	43	18.4
Pupils resident[6] in mid-Sussex constituency			
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	7,225	323	4.5
State-funded secondary[1,2]	5,408	218	4.0
Special[3]	148	27	18.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
[6] Based on pupils' postcode as reported in School Census.
Source:
School Census

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the levels of attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals in *(a)* Wells constituency and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [38987]

Mr Gibb: We are determined to close the attainment gap between pupils from poorer and wealthier backgrounds and want to see more resources being spent on the education of children from deprived backgrounds. The Pupil Premium will provide additional funding specifically linked to pupils eligible for free school meals with the primary aim of boosting attainment. We will also ensure that schools have to account to parents for how they have used the Premium to achieve this.

The latest available information for the 2009/10 academic year is provided in the following tables.

Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level at key stage 2 in English and mathematics, and reading, writing and mathematics attending maintained schools[1] in Wells parliamentary constituency[2] and England by free school meal eligibility, 2009/10

	Pupils eligible for free school meals		Pupils not eligible for free school meals	
	Percentage achieving the expected level in English and mathematics	Percentage achieving the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics	Percentage achieving the expected level in English and mathematics	Percentage achieving the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics
Wells	59	43	78	69

Percentage of pupils achieving the expected level at key stage 2 in English and mathematics, and reading, writing and mathematics attending maintained schools[1] in Wells parliamentary constituency[2] and England by free school meal eligibility, 2009/10

	Pupils eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*	
	Percentage achieving the expected level in English and mathematics	*Percentage achieving the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics*	*Percentage achieving the expected level in English and mathematics*	*Percentage achieving the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics*
England	56.0	45.4	77.4	68.6

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools only (including city technology colleges and academies).

[2] Overseas pupils are excluded from the parliamentary constituency figures. They are however included in the national figures.

Source:

National Pupil Database (amended data)

Percentage of pupils[1,2] achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE and equivalent, and five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs attending maintained schools[3] in Wells parliamentary constituency[4] and England by free school meal eligibility, 2009/10*

	Pupils eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*	
	Percentage achieving 5+ A-C grades*	*Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSEs*	*Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades*	*Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSEs*
Wells	35.8	28.4	73.7	58.9
England	58.6	31.2	78.8	58.8

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the academic year.

[2] In 2009/10 iGCSEs have been counted as GCSE equivalents and also as English and mathematics GCSEs.

[3] Pupils attending maintained schools only (including city technology colleges and academies).

[4] Parliamentary constituency figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas. They are however included in the national figures.

Source:

National Pupil Database (amended data)

Schools: Discipline

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of administration on schools in respect of disciplinary matters. [39692]

Mr Gibb: We are clear that schools should be trusted to apply the most appropriate approaches to behaviour and discipline. By stripping away unnecessary regulation and prescription and by reducing the amount of paperwork and bureaucracy we will free teachers to re-assert their authority. As part of this approach, we are slashing the amount of guidance on behaviour and bullying that teachers are expected to read from over 700 pages to under 100 pages.

Schools: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on school transport in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [39228]

Mr Gibb: The Government have received five representations specifically about North Yorkshire county council's consultation on its policy to withdraw free school transport to faith schools. One representation was from my hon. Friend, three from parents and one from a head teacher of a school.

Home to school transport policy has remained largely unchanged since the 1944 Education Act when the social, economic and education landscape was very different. The Department is carrying out a review of home to school transport. As part of that we are considering how best practice can be spread to all local authorities, and will make further announcements in due course.

Schools: Religious Practice

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many schools have applied to the Local Authority Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for permission to opt out of the requirement to provide a daily act of collective Christian worship (i) in England and (ii) in Suffolk since the establishment of such a requirement; and how many such applications were awaiting a determination in the latest period for which figures are available; [35217]

(2) which schools in Suffolk have applied to the Local Authority Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for permission to opt out of the requirement to provide a daily act of collective Christian worship since the establishment of such a requirement; and which applications were awaiting a determination in the latest period for which figures are available. [35218]

Mr Gibb: There are no national data available about schools which have applied to the Local Authority Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for permission to lift the requirement to provide a daily act of Christian collective worship. Therefore, we cannot provide data on schools making such a request either at a national or a local level.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of the services to be provided by the all-age careers service will be available *(a)* online, *(b)* via a helpline and *(c)* in the form of face-to-face meetings with a qualified adviser; and if he will make a statement. [33015]

Mr Gibb: The all-age careers service will be accessible through a range of channels to reflect individual need. The online and helpline provision will be accessible to all young people and adults. Face-to-face careers guidance will be prioritised for those with the greatest need. We are developing the detail of the new service in discussion with local authorities, schools and the careers sector.

Alongside this, schools will take responsibility for securing access to independent, impartial careers guidance, whether from the all-age service or other high quality careers guidance services. They will have freedom to fulfil this responsibility in ways that best suit the needs of their students.

Social Workers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the incidence of *(a)* physical and *(b)* verbal abuse against child protection social workers. [40327]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not collect this information; it is held by organisations that employ social workers.

As outlined in the General Social Care Council's Code of Practice for Social Care Employers, it is the responsibility of employers of social care workers to have in place clear policies and procedures for minimising the risk of violence. Employers of social care workers are also expected to have procedures in place for staff to report any incidences of physical or verbal violence against them and to support staff who have experienced such incidences in the course of their work.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the average number of children on the case load of a child protection social worker; and if he will estimate the change in the size of the average caseload in each of the next five years. [40328]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not collect information on the caseloads of child protection social workers; this information is held by the organisations that employ them and whose responsibility it is to manage caseloads.

In its 2009 Workload Survey, the Social Work Task Force reported that the number of cases held by social workers varied considerably. Over 700 social workers and managers working in local authority children's services departments took part in this survey. 44% of the children's and families' social workers and managers who participated in the survey held 15 active cases or fewer, 23% held between 16 and 20 cases and 24% reported holding over 20 active cases. The remaining 9% of participants in the survey provided no information on the number of cases they held.

The Social Work Task Force's Workload Survey can be accessed at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/social%20workers%20workload%20survey.pdf

Between 2008-09 and 2009-10, referrals to Children's Services Departments have risen, as has the volume of assessments carried out by children and families' social workers. The Department for Education does not hold information on how this increase has impacted on caseloads. Further information on the volume of referrals and assessments can be found in Professor Munro's February 2011 interim report, available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/

Special Educational Needs: Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to ensure adequate provision of special educational needs services in the transfer of schools to academy status. [14005]

Mr Gibb: The Department is conducting a wide-reaching review of school funding from 2012-13, with the aim of a consultation by late spring 2011. This review will include the longer term funding of academies and the funding of services for vulnerable groups, including those with special needs.

With the help of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), the DFE has undertaken a small survey of open academies to inform immediate thinking in this area. We also intend to work with partners such as the YPLA and the Special Educational Consortium on the issue of monitoring the impact of academy conversions on the provision of special educational needs services for the longer term.

St Luke's School: Finance

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital costs, *(b)* revenue costs and *(c)* number of additional pupil places arising from the decision to permit St Luke's School in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency to proceed with its application to create a free school; and if he will make a statement. [39866]

Mr Gibb: There will be some capital costs involved in establishing St Luke's school and work is currently under way to finalise these costs. St Luke's, like all free schools, will receive revenue funding at a rate that is equivalent to maintained schools and academies in their local authority. If the St Luke's school is established, it is proposing to admit 15 pupils per year, providing places for a total of 105 pupils when fully operational.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to remove the requirement on head teachers to apply to the local authority Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education in order to enable their school to opt out of the requirement to provide a daily act of collective worship of a wholly or mainly Christian character. [33522]

Mr Gibb: Collective worship in schools is one of the longest-standing traditions of the school system. It is also one that encourages pupils to reflect on the concept of belief and the role it plays in the traditions and values of this country.

We believe that it is wholly consistent with our culture of tolerance and inclusivity to celebrate the traditions of this country—which are, in the main, Christian—while recognising and celebrating those of others in our diverse society.

The law as it stands allows schools the flexibility to apply to have the requirement for broadly Christian collective worship lifted, where such a course is justified, while meeting the need for accountability to the local community. We therefore have no plans to bring forward proposals to remove the requirement on head teachers to apply to have the determination for wholly or mainly Christian collective worship lifted.

Sure Start: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Sure Start places were provided in Ashfield constituency in 2009-10; and how many such places he expects to be provided in 2010-11. [31283]

Sarah Teather: Since March 2008 Nottinghamshire has had a total of 58 children's centres providing access to services for 41,128 children under five and their families. Nine of these centres are in the Ashfield constituency, providing access to services for 5,540 children under five and their families.

Figures for the number of children under five and their families actually attending and using children's centres are not collected centrally. Local authorities have a duty under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient provision of children's centres.

Teachers

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the qualified teacher status standards. [39860]

Mr Gibb: In the Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' we said that we will review existing measures of teacher performance and conduct, including the current professional standards for teachers and the General Teaching Council for England's (GTCE) code of conduct and practice, to establish clear and unequivocal standards. As part of that review we will look at the standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in England.

Teachers: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme there are. [40116]

Mr Gibb: The latest available information taken from data submitted last year by the Department to the independent commission on public sector pensions shows that the Teachers' Pension Scheme has 637,042 active members, 419,687 deferred members and 511,364 pensioner members in the scheme.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assumptions he has made in respect of the dropout rate from the Teachers' Pension Scheme attributable to *(a)* potential increases in contributions and *(b)* its indexation against the consumer prices index; what assessment he has made of the effects of the dropout rate on the future viability of this fund; and if he will make a statement. [40360]

Mr Gibb: At the spending review the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that some additional members, amounting to 1% of the value of the paybill, would optout of all the public service schemes as a result of the proposed increase in pension contributions.

Further consideration of the effects of this policy on the opt-out rate will be made as part of the process of determining the distribution of increases in contributions across members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The Government are engaging with employee representatives on the principles to apply across public service schemes, and wish to implement change in a way which minimises increases in opt-out rates. The Government are already committed to implementing contribution increases in a progressive way so that higher earners pay higher rates than lower earners.

No assessment has been made of the number of additional members that might optout as a result of the change in indexation.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the pension entitlement will be of a member of the Teachers' Pension Scheme who retires after 30 years' full-time service on a salary of *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* £15,000, *(c)* £20,000, *(d)* £25,000, *(e)* £30,000, *(f)* £40,000 and *(g)* £50,000 if the pension is updated in line with (i) the retail prices index and (ii) the consumer prices index. [40367]

Mr Gibb: Pension entitlement under the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is calculated through reference to pensionable service and average salary. Full details of the calculation of pension entitlement under the TPS are provided on the TPS website, and be accessed using the following link:

http://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/members/members9.htm

Annual pension payments will increase annually in line with legislation. I cannot give figures for these increases because I cannot predict the size of future changes in any indexation measure.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the Teachers' Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index *(a)* in 2010-11 and *(b)* in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40440]

Mr Gibb: The Government have not made any separate estimate of the change in central Government expenditure *(a)* in 2010-11 or *(b)* in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years for the Teachers' Pension Scheme as a result of the change to indexation of public service pensions and benefits in line with the consumer prices index.

However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure over the forecast period for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1193W; and the Office for Budget Responsibility, responsible for forecasting expenditure on public service pensions, has included the change to indexation in line with the consumer prices index in its methodology.

Vocational Guidance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has developed a transition plan for the change from existing careers advice services to the new all-age careers advice service. [39490]

Mr Gibb: We are aiming to set out more detail shortly on the arrangements for the all-age careers service, including how the service will be delivered, which should help local authorities—and schools—develop their own plans for transition. We are working with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, and other organisations with an interest in careers guidance, on the development of the new service and the transitional arrangements that will be needed to provide access for young people to careers guidance in advance of the establishment of the all-age careers service.

Vocational Guidance: Training

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to increase the training, professional development and skills of those who give careers advice in schools; and if he will make a statement. [35476]

Mr Gibb: The Government have accepted recommendations of the Careers Profession Task Force, set out in their report, "Towards A Strong Careers Profession" and published in October 2010. The Government are working with the Careers Profession Alliance and other sector organisations to implement these recommendations, which include a focus on ensuring all careers advisers have the initial training and continuing professional development to carry out their role effectively, within a strong careers profession.

Wirral Schools Private Finance Initiative

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have participated in the Wirral schools private finance initiative in the last five years; and what the names are of such schools. [40969]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 February 2011]*: Nine schools have participated in the Wirral schools private finance initiative in the last five years. They are:

Bebington high sports college
South Wirral high school
Wallasey school
Park high school
Wirral grammar school for girls
Hilbre high school
Weatherhead high school media arts college
Prenton high school for girls
Leasowe primary school

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Billing

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the independent providers of bill payment services since 30 September 2010. [41925]

Mr Davey: My scheduled meeting with PayPoint in April will be the first such meeting since 30 September 2010.

Business: Electricity

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the potential benefits of a smart electricity grid for business in the UK; [41766]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the extent of opportunities for businesses which may be created by the development of a smart electricity grid in the UK. [41767]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' officials have made no formal assessment but are aware of the potential opportunities and benefits and are monitoring the situation closely in conjunction with officials in the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to promote low carbon technology exports. [41852]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) promotes UK low carbon technology exports through its core services for businesses, such as trade missions, trade shows and exhibitions both overseas and in the UK. For example, UKTI organised an environment and water trade mission for UK businesses with low carbon solutions in India for the week commencing 7 February 2011.

UKTI is leading the UK's low carbon 2010/11 campaign to ensure there is increased awareness of the UK's low carbon 'Know How'. In the last six months we have undertaken a range of promotional activities in our priority markets of China, India, Brazil and west coast North America.

Carbon Emissions: North East England

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support the development of low-carbon technology in the North East. [41740]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is taking a number of steps to support the development of low carbon technology in the North East.

BIS has provided up to £20.7 million to support the manufacture of electric vehicles and associated battery production at the Nissan plant in Sunderland.

BIS (together with the Department for Transport) has made £2.4 million available under the Government's Plugged-In Places programme to the North East, with a further £1.5 million made available out to 2013. This funding will see around 1,300 vehicle charging points being installed across the North East over the next three years.

BIS is funding the National Renewable Energy Centre (Narec) in Blyth. In particular, Narec is receiving £11.5 million for an offshore wind blade test site, £18.5 million for an offshore wind turbine test site and £10 million for a marine drive train facility.

BIS has funded (thorough the North East Regional Development Agency) the Tees Valley Industrial programme, which has committed £42 million for industrial transformation, particularly in the areas of low carbon and advanced manufacturing.

Departmental Contracts

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many providers classified as outstanding who have been exempted from inspection for eight years will no longer receive direct contracts under the Skills Funding Agency's proposals relating to minimum contract value. [39602]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* As a part of our commitment to free further education (FE) colleges and training organisations from stifling bureaucracy, we announced in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" in November 2010 that we would suspend inspections for those FE colleges that were judged by Ofsted to be 'outstanding' and pledged to extend this to training organisations.

We will introduce a minimum contract level (MCL) in the 2011/12 academic year as part of our commitment to create a streamlined and more efficient FE system. In an environment of declining budgets, it becomes increasingly difficult for small providers to operate without realising the efficiencies of shared services or economies of scale through collaboration or sub-contracting. The Skills Funding Agency also needs to become more efficient and streamlined.

Where there is a risk of specialist provision being lost or a significant impact on choice available in a particular area due to the introduction of the MCL, the Skills Funding Agency will consider on a case by case basis whether alternative arrangements need to be made. Due to the nature of the contract that they have with the Skills Funding Agency, general FE and specialist colleges will be exempt from the application of the MCL.

We do not hold information centrally on the number of further education colleges and training organisations that have been judged to be 'outstanding' and that are below the MCL and so I have asked the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency to write to the hon. Member to provide these details with a copy being placed in the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010. [42310]

Mr Davey: Between the 1 May 2010 and 17 February a total of 591 staff left the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (including UK Trade & Investment). These staff had a combined FTE of 500.37.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [42391]

Mr Davey: On the 17 February the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (including UK Trade & Investment) employed 3,250 staff. These staff had a combined FTE of 3,146.43.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42407]

Mr Davey: On the 1 May 2010 the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (including UK Trade & Investment) employed 3,641 staff. These staff had a combined FTE of 3,595.49.

Departmental Offices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* setting up and *(b)* maintaining his Department's offices in the English regions in the financial year 2011-12. [41545]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* A budget of £3.5 million per annum has been estimated. This includes salary and associated administrative costs.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to locate the new regional offices of his Department in premises currently occupied by regional development agencies or Government offices for the regions. [42035]

Mr Prisk: The Department intends to locate the new local offices in existing BIS or BIS agency premises. The exact locations for the teams are still being determined and some will have dual locations to provider wider geographic coverage. It is not currently possible to confirm when decisions on locations will be made.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of establishing his Department's new regional offices. [42037]

Mr Prisk: A budget of £3.5 million per annum has been estimated. This includes salary and associated administrative costs.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of closing regional development agencies; and what proportion of such costs arise from *(a)* redundancy, *(b)* premises and *(c)* other costs. [42038]

Mr Prisk: I refer to the answer given on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 833W, covering total costs including redundancies. There are no estimates of the cost of closure for premises at present as alternative use may be made of some buildings now occupied by regional development agencies.

Educational Maintenance Grant

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects Student Finance England to reply to the constituent of the right hon. Member for Birkenhead, K D Bennett, on when she will receive her maintenance grant for the 2010-11 academic year. [41529]

Mr Willetts: I understand that the Student Loans Company, which administers the Student Finance England service, contacted Ms Bennett on 16 February to inform her that payment of her maintenance grant for the 2010/11 academic year has now been made.

Employment: Graduates

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist graduates in finding employment. [41649]

Mr Willetts: The Department's major contributions to graduate employment are our policies to stimulate growth, which will create more jobs in the long term. We have encouraged universities and colleges to prepare undergraduates for the workplace, and all universities have now set out in employability statements the support they give their students. We continue to encourage employers to invest in students and graduates by offering work experience and internships, which help them to develop valuable skills and boost their employment chances.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many graduates have secured a place through the Graduate Talent Pool since its inception; and how many such places were based in Coventry. [41650]

Mr Willetts: The Graduate Talent Pool is designed as a service to put graduates in touch with employers offering internships. Since its launch, over 29,000 vacancies have been advertised on the site, and there are currently 2,325 internship vacancies. Early evaluation found that overall, 22% of graduate respondents secured and undertook an internship, which would suggest up to around 1,440 actual internships were undertaken by graduates who registered in the first six months of the scheme. We do not routinely collect data on how many opportunities are taken up, and cannot say how many places were based in Coventry.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Graduate Talent Pool. [41651]

Mr Willetts: As part of our programme to get Britain working, we continue to encourage employers to invest in students and graduates by offering work experience and internships which help them to develop valuable skills and boost their employment chances. We are considering the long term future of the Graduate Talent Pool.

Environment Protection

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will take steps to encourage the *(a)* production and *(b)* distribution of environmental products in Redditch; [41681]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the contribution to the economy of the manufacture of environmental products; and what steps he is taking to increase that contribution. [41682]

Mr Prisk: According to research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), low carbon and environmental goods and services sectors in the UK were worth £112 billion in 2008/09. They are growing at around 4% per annum to 2015.

The Government have implemented a wide range of policies to encourage the development production, and uptake of low carbon, environmental goods and services.

BIS, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have recently established a Green Economy Council, to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing business as we transition to a greener economy. These Departments will also publish a Roadmap to a Green Economy this spring, which will provide greater clarity and certainty for business investment decisions.

BIS has also recently accepted a proposal for a Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, which is looking to drive business growth in Redditch and throughout the county.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 957W, on environment protection, what the dates of his discussions with ministerial colleagues were; which Ministers were involved; whether the discussions were part of a formal meeting; whether minutes or notes were taken; what the outcomes of the discussions were; and whether the discussions are ongoing. [41936]

Mr Prisk: BIS Ministers are having ongoing discussions with ministerial colleagues about our efforts to build a green economy. The content of the Roadmap to a Green Economy was discussed at the following meetings. Notes were taken.

19 January: Minister of State for Business and Enterprise and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

24 January: Deputy Prime Minister; Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change; Secretary of State for Transport; Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Minister of State, Cabinet Office; Minister of State for Housing and Local Government.

10 February 2011: Deputy Prime Minister; Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change; Secretary of State for Transport; Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Economic Secretary to the Treasury; Minister for Government Policy; Minister of State for Housing and Local Government.

16 February 2011: Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change; Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Minister of State for Business and Enterprise; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This discussion was part of a formal meeting of the Green Economy Council.

EU Internal Trade

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what further steps he plans to take to complete the single market in the EU. [42796]

Mr Prisk: The Government will publish their response to the Commission consultation on the Single Market Act on 28 February 2011. In this we argue that reforms to the single market should be seen as part of a wider strategy to encourage growth across the EU. We recommend that the Commission focus its efforts on those actions that will have the greatest positive impact on growth. Specifically, we recommend that the Commission takes action to:

> Improve the single market in services;
>
> Modernise the single market so as to enable businesses and citizens to take advantage of advances in digital technology; support the development of a single market in energy and low carbon; facilitate innovation; and help businesses trying to trade with the rest of the world; and
>
> Support small and medium enterprise growth and ensure that the single market works for citizens.

Copies of the consultation response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Exports: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of small and medium-sized enterprises which export to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [R] [41961]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) provides expert trade advice and practical support to UK-based companies wishing to export their products and services worldwide, and not just to Israel. With 2,400 staff and a presence in 96 countries, UKTI can assist small and medium-sized enterprises on every step of the exporting journey—whatever stage of their development. Through a range of unique services, including participation at selected trade fairs, outward and inward missions and bespoke market intelligence, UKTI can help UK small and medium-sized enterprises to penetrate foreign markets and understand overseas regulations and local business practices, helping them to increase their market penetration into new and existing markets, such as Israel.

Green Investment Bank

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 387W, on the Green Investment Bank, what his definition is of significant additional funding; and what indicative range he expects proceeds from asset sales to fall within at an aggregate level. [42990]

Mr Prisk: To give information on expected proceeds from asset sales could prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes, I will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

Green Investment Bank: Finance

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role the Green Investment Bank will have in *(a)* encouraging and *(b)* administering marine technology funding. [42726]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will have a wide remit to tackle financing issues affecting the deployment of green infrastructure.

We do not currently envisage the bank providing funding for research and development.

Marine energy technologies are expected to play an important part in our future energy mix, and the Government are already providing funding to research, develop and demonstrate these technologies. In due course, when these technologies are more mature, it is possible that the bank could help to finance their deployment.

We will make a detailed announcement on the GIB in May.

Higher Education

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the Government's funding proposals for tuition fees on the number of students applying to enter higher education. [41630]

Mr Willetts: The Department has commissioned a number of projects which have examined the impact of tuition fees. Reports are available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/research

Evidence suggests that students are sensitive to price changes but they can be offset by comparable changes in the provision of grants and loans.

Analysis of the 2006 reforms of tuition fees and student support in the UK found that an increase in tuition fees by £1,000 per annum—holding all other factors constant—would be expected to lead to a 4.4 percentage point decline in participation. However, in addition, it was found that a £1,000 per annum increase in grants increases participation by 2.1 percentage points while a £1,000 per annum increase in loans is associated with a 3.2 percentage point increase in participation.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what deadlines he has set for the submission and approval of access agreements with universities; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the time provided for universities to meet these requirements. [42670]

Mr Willetts: These are matters for the director of fair access. He is publishing his guidance to universities on these matters in early March.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* Lord Browne of Madingley and *(b)* other members of his review team on his Department's proposals on access to university since the publication of the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance; and on what dates such discussions took place. [42673]

Mr Willetts: Since the publication of the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance on 12 October 2010 I have had formal discussions with Lord Browne on 2 November 2010, 21 December 2010, 17 February 2011 and 25 February 2011. These meetings discussed a wide range of issues relating to higher education including access to universities. I have not met with other members of the review team. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no discussions with Lord Browne over this time period.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average amount a postgraduate student will pay in university fees in academic year 2012-13; and what his policy is on the level of fees charged for postgraduate study. [41724]

Mr Willetts: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 763W.

Higher Education: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Minister for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland on the implications for Northern Ireland *(a)* students and *(b)* universities resulting from his proposed changes to the funding of higher education in England. [29247]

Mr Willetts: I have had extensive discussions on our proposed reforms with relevant Ministers in each of the devolved Administrations, including Northern Ireland. As higher education is a fully devolved issue it is of course for each country to bring forward its own proposals. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has not met with the Minister for Employment and Learning (Danny Kennedy).

Higher Education: Standards

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the research undertaken by the university of Bristol on performance at university of pupils educated in poorly-performing schools used by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [42671]

Mr Willetts: I am aware of the conclusions of research by the university of Bristol on the performance of state and independently schooled entrants in terms of the class of the degree they obtained at the university of Bristol. The Higher Education Funding Council for England report that they do not use this information as they have no role in the process of admissions to the university.

Higher Education: Wales

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much income was generated from overseas students for universities in Wales in each of the last six years. [42939]

Mr Willetts: The income of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the UK is collected as part of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Finance Record. The annual income of Welsh HEIs from the tuition fees paid by non-EU students is shown in the following table. Figures are in cash terms, not in real terms, and relate to the academic year, not the financial year.

Income generated from tuition fees from non-EU students in Welsh higher education institutions 2003/04 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Income (£000)*
2003/04	39,428
2004/05	48,717
2005/06	50,194
2006/07	60,110
2007/08	63,358
2008/09	74,141

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) finance record

Insolvency Service

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many company directors have been disqualified for *(a)* attempted concealment of assets or cases where assets have disappeared or a deficiency is unexplained, *(b)* appropriation of assets to other companies for no consideration, at an undervalue, or on the basis of unreasonable charges for services, *(c)* preferences and *(d)* personal benefits obtained by directors in each year since 2002; [42020]

(2) how many company directors have been disqualified for *(a)* overvaluing assets in accounts for the purpose of obtaining loans or other financial accommodation or to mislead creditors, *(b)* making loans to directors for share purchases, *(c)* dishonoured cheques, *(d)* the use of delaying tactics and *(e)* non-payment of Crown debts to finance trading in each year since 2002; [42021]

(3) how many company directors have been disqualified for *(a)* phoenix operations, *(b)* misconduct in the operation of a factoring account, *(c)* taking deposits for goods or services ultimately not supplied and *(d)* cases where criminal convictions have resulted in each year since 2002. [42022]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service statistics of the allegation types made in disqualifications have been maintained since 2007-08 and are included the service's annual report published on its website.

Allegation types	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Crown debts	554	563	816
Accounting matters	250	381	448
Transactions to the detriment of creditors	161	246	391
Criminal matters	101	174	258
Misappropriation of assets	53	49	68
Technical matters—statutory obligations	37	46	33
Trading at a time when company knowingly or unknowingly insolvent	36	44	40
Phoenix companies or multiple failures	13	14	12
Other	n/a	n/a	98
Total	1,205	1,517	2,164

Comparable figures are not available for earlier years.

Insolvency Service: Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of the budget of the Insolvency Service was spent on *(a)* reviewing and *(b)* investigating D1 reports and other work on the disqualification of company directors in each year since 2002. [41952]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service's budget is not structured in such a way that the detailed figures that the hon. Gentleman requested are readily available. The Insolvency Service as a whole receives financing from both fees and direct funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. These figures are available in the service's annual reports and accounts. From 1 April 2004, the cost of case administration have been met by fees while investigation and enforcement is paid for by an allocation of programme funding from the budget of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as set out in the following table and notes. These figures relate to the cost of dealing with all aspects of the Insolvency Service's disqualification effort.

Investigation and enforcement expenditure

	£
2002-03	32,931,000
2003-04	29,279,000
2004-05	29,314,000
2005-06	34,449,000
2006-07	29,233,000
2007-08	28,039,158
2008-09	28,853,619
2009-10	28,916,622

Notes:
1. Figures exclude expenditure in relation to the investigation of live companies.
2. Figures up to and including 2006-07 include the investigation and enforcement of official receiver's cases (bankruptcies and companies).
3. Figures from 2007-08 exclude the expenditure on investigation of OR cases, but include the enforcement cost of those cases.
4. The figures for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Insolvency: Legal Costs

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of the proposals of the Jackson Review of civil litigation costs on insolvency practitioners' ability to *(a)* claim against delinquent directors and *(b)* pursue recoveries for creditors. [41951]

Mr Davey: Responses to the Government's recently concluded consultation on implementing a package of proposals for reforming conditional fee arrangements and other aspects of civil litigation funding and costs are presently being considered.

Officials from the Ministry of Justice will liaise with officials from this Department to consider what, if any, impact there may be on the work undertaken by insolvency practitioners in the event that it is decided to take the proposals forward.

The Government intend to publish a response to the consultation in the spring.

National Federation of SubPostmasters

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the National Federation of SubPostmasters since 30 September 2010. [41924]

Mr Davey: Since 30 September 2010, I have met representatives of the National Federation of SubPostmasters on three occasions. One of these meetings was held jointly with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

National Scholarship Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time students he estimates will receive assistance from the National Scholarship Fund in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [42800]

Mr Willetts: From 2014-15 we expect that the National Scholarship Programme will be supporting up to 100,000 students annually through Government funding and match funding from institutions. The balance between full-time and part-time students will emerge from choices that institutions and students make for themselves.

One North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the quantity of assets held in land by One North East. [41567]

Mr Prisk: Details of One North East's assets are contained in its annual report and accounts (HC125). Detail of its land assets were provided in my answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Laura Sandys) on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 458W.

Overseas Students: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has of the number of Israeli students studying in universities in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales; what subject each is studying; what steps (i) he is taking and (ii) plans to take in each of the next two years to promote UK universities in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [41962]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on the number of Israeli domiciled enrolments to English and Welsh Higher Education Institutions is shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

The Government are working through the British Council to promote the United Kingdom as a study destination for international students. With its network of offices across the world including in Israel, the British Council is well placed to help UK universities to recruit students and develop links with Israeli institutions. The Government have also supported the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange partnership scheme (BIRAX), managed by the British Council which enables researchers from Britain and Israel to work together on collaborative scientific projects.

Israeli domiciled enrolments[1] by subject of study English and Welsh higher education institutions academic year 2009/10

Subject of study	Location of institution	
	England	Wales
Medicine and dentistry	10	—
Subjects allied to medicine	25	0
Biological sciences	35	—
Veterinary science	—	0
Agriculture and related subjects	—	0
Physical sciences	15	0
Mathematical sciences	—	0
Computer science	10	0
Engineering and technology	25	0
Architecture, building and planning	10	—
Social studies	85	—
Law	45	—
Business and administrative studies	80	—
Mass communications and documentation	10	—
Languages	20	—
Historical and philosophical studies	20	0
Creative arts and design	60	—
Education	65	0
Combined	—	0
Total	520	15

[1] Covers enrolments to full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five. Figures less than 5 are shown as '-', zero counts are shown as '0'. Due to rounding, columns may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Post Office: Meetings

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met the Managing Director of the Post Office since 30 September 2010. [41923]

Mr Davey: Since 30 September 2010, I have had two meetings with Paula Vennells, managing director of Post Office Ltd.

Post Offices

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of retail outlets at which consumers can make cash payments for public utility services in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland; and what proportion of such outlets is provided by the Post Office in each such case. [41922]

Mr Davey: The Department has made no such estimate but is aware that large numbers of retail outlets, in addition to post offices, offer facilities for cash payments for public utility services across the UK.

Post Offices: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices have closed in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency in each year since 1981. [42028]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Finance

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has to put in place statutory measures to regulate the purposes for which the Post Office Ltd is able to use state funding; [41918]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that state funding of the Post Office will be open to parliamentary scrutiny. [41920]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has no plans to further regulate the purposes for which Post Office Ltd is able to use state funding. The Postal Services Act 2000 sets the parameters for the provision funding by Government to Post Office Limited. Government funding for the Post Office must of course also comply with any relevant European Commission state aid approval.

We expect that ongoing funding to the Post Office will be provided under the Post Office Network Subsidy Scheme introduced in 2007 pursuant to section 103 of the Postal Services Act 2000. The amendment to the scheme required to make those payments was debated and approved by both Houses of Parliament in December 2010.

An annual report on the post office network and the company's annual accounts will be required to be laid before Parliament under the provisions of the Postal Services Bill.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that state funding of the Post Office will be audited on a regular basis by the National Audit Office. [41919]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) receives an annual report on the subsidy provided to the Post Office, which is verified by an independent firm of auditors. Under the provisions of the Postal Services Bill, Post Office Ltd's audited annual report will also be laid before Parliament. The Secretary of State has no plans to impose additional requirements, such as state funding of the Post Office being audited by the National Audit Office.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many Post Office branches received state funding in the most recent year for which figures are available; [41921]

(2) what the average subsidy paid to each Post Office branch was in the last year for which figures are available. [41927]

Mr Davey: The annual Government subsidy (£150 million in 2009-10) to the post office network is to support the costs to Post Office Ltd of maintaining access to key services across its whole network of around 11,500 outlets. Post Office Ltd estimates that, without this funding, a commercial network would comprise around 4,000 branches.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has notified the European Commission of its intention to make state funding available to the Post Office; and what services his Department has designated as Services of General Economic Interest for this purpose. [41926]

Mr Davey: The Department has notified the European Commission regarding compensation to Post Office Ltd for costs incurred to provide services of general economic interest during the financial year 2011-12. Services of general economic interest are designated for this purpose as:

1. Processing social benefit and tax credit payments to the public.
2. Processing of national identity and licensing scheme applications.
3. Universal payment facilities for public utility services.
4. Universal postal service.
5. Universal access to basic cash and banking facilities and Government savings instruments, especially for rural customers and those on social benefits.

A notification for funding beyond 2012 will be submitted in due course.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of Post Office branches which will not make a profit in 2014-15. [41928]

Mr Davey: In the policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age' the Government made clear that a residual level of subsidy would almost certainly be required in the future to maintain a number of post office branches which could never be profitable but which provide a valuable social purpose. It is not possible to estimate the numbers of such branches at this stage but we expect them to be substantially lower than at present.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Post Office branches did not make a profit in the last financial year for which figures are available; and how many such branches were located in rural areas. [41929]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how the money allocated by his Department to the Post Office in respect of *(a)* network modernisation, *(b)* technology, *(c)* project costs and *(d)* other purposes is expected to be spent between 2011-12 and 2014-15. [41930]

Mr Davey: In the policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age' the Government gave a breakdown of the £1.34 billion funding for the Post Office showing that 37% would be allocated to network modernisation (for example capital costs to refurbish branches), 7% to technology (for example to install new PIN pads across the network), 5% to project costs (for example staff to oversee network modernisation) and 3% to other purposes (for example head office cost saving initiatives). The funding allocation by year is: £180 million in 2011-12; £410 million in 2012-13; £415 million in 2013-14 and £330 million in 2014-15.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from independent and third sector organisations on the funding for the Post Office announced on 27 October 2010. [41984]

Mr Davey: To date, the Department has received one representation from independent or third sector organisations about the £1.34 billion funding for the Post Office announced last October, that being from PayPoint plc.

Postal Boxes

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he is taking steps to ensure that red post boxes with the Royal insignia are retained within any proposed changes that are planned for Royal Mail. [41753]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail has no plans to change the colour of post boxes which forms part of one of the most recognised brands in the UK. We believe that it would not make commercial sense for any new owners of Royal Mail to seek to dismantle this brand and to go to the expense of re-painting all 115,000 post boxes a different colour. With regard to the use of the royal associations, the Government believe that Royal Mail should continue to use the royal cypher on post boxes, and discussions on this matter are ongoing.

Pupils: Foreign Nationals

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the access performance indicators referred to in his Department's Guidance to the Director of Fair Access will include *(a)* non-UK citizens attending UK schools, *(b)* UK citizens attending schools outside the UK and *(c)* non-UK citizens attending schools outside the UK. [42745]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes the performance indicators in higher education on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council for England. All the access performance indicators are restricted to students who are residents of England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland only, i.e. they do not report on non-UK residents. Therefore, neither non-UK residents attending UK schools nor non-UK residents attending schools outside the UK are included in the indicators.

Subject to the residency condition (rather than a UK citizen condition), all UK students are reported on. However, UK residents who report their school as being overseas would normally be categorised as unknown for the state schools indicator. For the low participation neighbourhood (LPN) indicator, whether such students are categorised as unknown or LPN/not LPN, depends on where their home postcode is reported. If it is an overseas postcode, they will be classified as unknown. For the lower socio-economic groups indicator, UK residents will be included regardless of whether they studied at a UK or an overseas school.

More information on the performance indicators is available on the HESA website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1703&Itemid=141

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward proposals to enable regional development agencies to guarantee the payment of grants for regional projects beyond the life-span of the agency; [41736]

(2) if he will guarantee outstanding grants agreed by One North East which are not made before the agency is abolished. [41742]

Mr Prisk: The spending review settlement provides resources for One North East and the eight other regional development agencies (RDAs) to meet their legal commitments. It is expected that RDAs will honour existing contracts and grant agreements but there may be circumstances where they will seek to negotiate variations with the parties concerned. Arrangements will be made to ensure payment of agreed grant amounts due after abolition of the agencies.

Research: Information Services

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what correspondence he has received from the *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary sector on future sponsorship of the R&D Scoreboard. [41761]

Mr Willetts: No correspondence has been received from either the private or voluntary sector on future sponsorship of the R and D Scoreboard.

Skills and Jobs Retention Group

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 96W, on the Skills and Jobs Retention Group, what the name is of each member of the Skills and Jobs Retention Group; and to which company or body each belongs. [42768]

Mr Prisk: With apologies for the omission of this information from the original answer, the membership of the Skills and Jobs Retention Group is as follows:

	Title
Chair:	
Allan Cook	Chairman of Atkins and SEMTA
Mark Barclay	Senior Vice President and Head of Centre of Excellence—Airbus
Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson	Chief Executive Officer Nuclear New Build—EDF Energy
Graham Chisnall	Managing Director Commercial Aerospace and Operations—ADS
James Fothergill	Head of Education and Skills—CBI
Bernine Hamilton	National Officer Aerospace and Shipbuilding—Unite
Frank Hayden	Group Manufacturing Director—Rolls Royce
Colin Lawther	Vice President Europe Production Engineering—Nissan
Juergen Maier	Managing Director UK Industry Sector—Siemens
Dick Martin	Chairman—Kembrey Wiring Systems Limited
John Whelan	Human Resources Director Programmes and Support—BAE Systems
Janice Munday	Director of Advanced Manufacturing and Services—The Department for Business Innovation and Skills
Susan Scholefield	Director General, Human Resources and Corporate Services—Ministry of Defence

Small Businesses

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of a *(a)* micro, *(b)* small and *(c)* medium-sized business his Department uses. [41553]

Mr Prisk: The Department's annual national statistics and other research use the following definition for micro, small and medium-sized businesses:

	Employees
Micro	0-9
Small	0-49
Medium	0-249

The European Union uses the following definitions which apply to policies that directly impact on small and medium-sized business, except in company accounting and reporting:

	Maximum headcount(employees and self-employed)	*Maximum annual turnover (€ million)*	*Maximum annual balance sheet total turnover (€ million)*
Micro	9	2	2
Small	49	10	10
Medium	249	50	43

Small Businesses: Loans

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made on discussions with banks on increasing levels of lending to small and medium-sized enterprises *(a)* at less cost and *(b)* with improved conditions. [42732]

Mr Prisk: As announced in the House on 9 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 310-13, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), the UK's five major banks have stated a capacity and willingness to lend £190 billion of new credit to business in 2011. This includes £76 billion of new lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which is a 15% increase on the amount lent in 2010. Should demand from viable businesses exceed this amount, the banks will lend more.

By making this an integral part of the chief executive officer remuneration package, the Government have also ensured that SME lending is taken more seriously than ever by banks.

In addition to these commitments from the major banks, the Government are also working with the British Banking Association (BBA) and the Business Finance Taskforce banks on a range of commitments set out in their response to the Green Paper "Supporting UK business", which aims to assist small businesses with access to finance issues. These commitments include improved data on availability and price of finance, strengthening the Lending Code and lending principles and new internal appeals processes for SMEs who feel they have been unfairly rejected for a loan.

Small Businesses: Manpower

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist small businesses with recruiting and maintaining their workforce. [41695]

Mr Prisk: The Government are reviewing employment laws to ensure they provide the flexibility that businesses need and to support economic growth, without compromising fairness.

As an important first step in reviewing employment laws, last month we launched a consultation document on the reform of the Employment Tribunal system—'Resolving Workplace Disputes'—and the Employer's Charter.

'Resolving Workplace Disputes' sets out a package of proposals aimed at resolving workplace disputes much earlier and avoiding the cost and stress of going to an employment tribunal. Where cases do need to go to a tribunal, we have proposed a number of solutions to ensure the system operates as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The Employer's Charter sets out what an employer can already do to address staff issues in the workplace. Both the tribunals consultation and the Employer's Charter are designed to give renewed confidence to businesses to recruit new employees.

On regulation more broadly, we are removing or delaying unnecessary measures wherever possible and have introduced the revolutionary one-in, one-out system that will cut the costs that businesses face in dealing with bureaucracy.

Social Security Benefits: Advisory Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 912W, on social security benefits: advisory services, what proportion of the funding of at least £470 million over the spending review period was additional to funding for such activity in the equivalent funding settlement for the period to 2010-11. [39919]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The £470 million represents the settlement provided for the Cabinet Office to support civil society organisations over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). This funding provides for a number of new coalition Government programmes including supporting 40,000 young people through the National Citizen Service, the Transition Fund, support for the creation of employee owned mutuals and community based funds. In addition to this funding, the creation of the Big Society Bank will unlock new finance for social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations.

Over the last spending review period (CSR2007), £515 million was allocated to the equivalent Cabinet Office programme to support the sector. Many of these programmes come to an end in March 2011.

South East of England Development Agency: Land

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* size and *(b)* monetary value of land assets held by the South East of England Development Agency. [42286]

Mr Prisk: Details of the value of the South East of England Development Agency's assets, including land, are contained in its Annual Report and Accounts (HC206). Detail of the extent of its land assets were provided to my hon. Friend for South Thanet (Laura Sandys) on 28 October 2010, *Official Report* column 458W.

Space Technology

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make an announcement on the Government's space policy. [41418]

Mr Willetts: The formal documents to create the UK Space Agency are expected to be laid before parliament by April 2011.

Students: Finance

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements are in place to recover domestic student loan repayments from graduates living and working overseas; and what proportion of expatriate graduates with student loan liabilities made repayments in the latest period for which figures are available. [42273]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) applies the same mechanisms to all borrowers who move overseas after leaving their course.

The SLC has established repayment arrangements for borrowers who move abroad, whether temporarily or because they live in another country. The SLC requests information about earnings and provides the borrower with a monthly repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan. The SLC converts the income into pounds sterling and tells the borrower the amount they will need to repay each month in pounds sterling.

Repayments can be made in a number of ways: debit/credit card; cheque; standing order/direct debit; or by logging into the online account on the student loan repayment portal.

There is a system of banded thresholds for countries outside the UK, which takes account of the level of affordability in other countries. This means that repayment will remain based on ability to repay, wherever the borrower lives.

At 30 April 2010, 8,800 English domiciled borrowers living overseas were earning above the threshold for the country and making repayments. A further 2,200 were in arrears and 1,200 had not provided details of income and were therefore considered in arrears. Therefore 72% of eligible borrowers were in repayment.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made on proposals to introduce an early repayment levy for those repaying student loans early; and if he will make a statement. [42998]

Mr Willetts: The Government are committed to the progressive nature of the repayment system. It is therefore important that those on the highest incomes post graduation are not able unfairly to buy themselves out of this progressive system by paying off their loans early. Any early repayment mechanism would need to ensure that graduates on modest incomes who strive to pay off their loans early through regular payments are not penalised.

The Government will consult on early repayment mechanisms in due course.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to provide financial assistance to those entering further education. [43002]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has an established range of financial assistance which has enabled adults to participate and remain in further education.

In the November publication "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", the Department made a commitment to create an enhanced adult learner support fund over the next two years. This will simplify the support for learners and providers, while ensuring future funds target those learners most in need of assistance to succeed.

Students: Loans

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of graduates resident in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London who have not made any student loan repayments since the present system of student finance came into operation. [41396]

Mr Willetts: The estimated number of borrowers residing in Bexley or London who have not made any loan repayments since the present system of income contingent loan repayments came into operation is shown in the following table:

	Latest known address[1]	
	Bexley	*London*
Number of borrowers[2]	1,200	68,100

[1] This corresponds to the address given by the borrowers when they opened the last loan account. The borrower may have moved elsewhere since.

[2] The table covers all cohorts liable to repay with at least one tax year processed—i.e. those who came into repayment during tax year April 2000/01 to April 2008/09 inclusive.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the policy of the Student Loans Company is on arrangements for practising Muslim students to pay interest on student loans. [41445]

Mr Willetts: The interest rate charged is applied uniformly across all student loan customers, based on the type of loan held and relevant legislation.

There are no separate arrangements for members of any particular faith. The Government have no plans to change this policy as part of the proposed reforms of student finance.

The Government believe that student loans would not be covered by Islamic rules because their overall terms are so much more favourable than those available commercially.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 March 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees: Pesticides

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of the beekeeping industry on new pesticides that are affecting varroa mites. [41712]

Mr Paice: I assume the hon. Member is referring to veterinary medicines that are used in the treatment of varroa in bees. There are currently five veterinary medicinal products authorised for the control of varroa in the UK, two of which have been authorised in the last two years.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is in regular contact with beekeepers about how to tackle medicines issues for bees and has produced an Action Plan on the Availability of Medicines for Bees which is published on its website. This action plan has been developed and is being implemented in close consultation with interest groups.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the future use of wild animals in circuses. [42715]

Mr Paice: We are currently considering the 13,000 or so responses to our consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses before we publish a summary. In the meantime, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my noble Friend Lord Henley, has been meeting with representatives of welfare groups and the circus industry.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on approval for the planting of genetically modified crops. [41965]

Mr Paice: The Government believe that regulatory decisions on GM crops should be based on a robust, case-by-case assessment of the potential impact on human health and the environment, taking full account of the scientific evidence.

New Forest

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 708W, on New Forest, whether access to such Forestry Commission land by the New Forest Hunt meets the criterion of a public benefit provided by the public forest estate. [42335]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The New Forest hunts carry out drag hunting under the terms of the permissions granted by the Forestry Commission. They are part of the traditions and heritage of the New Forest and could be considered as being a public benefit in this context.

Trees: Sudden Oak Death

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column 350, on trees: sudden oak death, whether contingency funding for sudden oak death is held centrally by her Department. [42881]

Mr Paice: No contingency funds are held for this or any other plant disease.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department expects to have cleared all outstanding legacy asylum claims. [42992]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The UK Border agency is on track to conclude the backlog of legacy cases by summer 2011. The agency provides regular updates on performance, including a breakdown into grants, removals and 'other' cases such as duplicates or errors, to the Home Affairs Select Committee and is due to report in the spring.

On 1 November the agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that it had concluded 334,500 cases at the end of September 2010.

Asylum: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were granted asylum in Coventry in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; [42871]

(2) how many people in the West Midlands were removed from the UK in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [42872]

Damian Green: In 2009, 109 individuals with a last known address in Coventry were granted asylum. In 2010, this number was 68.

In 2009, 1,894 individuals with a last known address in the West Midlands were removed from the United Kingdom. In 2010, this number was 1,833.

All figures quoted above are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Asylum: Detainees

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 511-12W, on asylum: detainees, for what technical reasons information collection on the reasons for asylum claimants leaving detention was discontinued in September 2006. [41862]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Prior to September 2006, published detention statistics were obtained from the Detainee Location and Management Information System (DELMIS); this was the main source of data on detention. DELMIS was switched off in October 2006 and information was instead recorded on the Case Information Database (CID).

Following this change from a statistical to an administrative system from which information was collected, figures on all persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers by reason (other than those removed from the UK) had not been published until the statistical data on the classification of reasons for persons leaving detention, other than for removal, was considered of publishable quality. The Head of Profession for Statistics for the Home Office is now satisfied the quality meets publication standards and publication of this information recommenced in November 2010, relating to the third quarter of 2010.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 511-2W, on asylum: detainees, how many detainees were held under Immigration Act powers at each such centre in the third quarter of 2010. [41863]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The following table, a subset of the latest published figures (Persons in detention as at 30 September 2010), shows the number of people in detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, who had claimed asylum at some stage, by place of detention as at 30 September 2010.

Persons in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of detention as at 30 September 2010[1,2]

		Number of persons
Place of detention	*Total detainees*	*Of whom: asylum detainees[3]*
UK Border Agency Removal Centres		
Harmondsworth	610	475
Brook House	415	195
Dover Immigration Removal Centre	315	180
Yarl's Wood	310	200
Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre	285	180
Campsfield House	215	120
Dungavel	200	105
Haslar	120	65
Lindholme	115	75
Tinsley House	115	65
Oakington Reception Centre	100	75
UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities		
Colnbrook Short Term	60	40
Pennine House	30	15
Harwich	5	—
Total	2,890	1,795

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0. * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

[2] Figures include dependants.

[3] Persons detained under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of people in detention, solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Q4 2010 figures, including persons detained as at 31 December 2010, will be available on 24 February 2011.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 511-2W, on asylum: detainees, how many of the 1,275 individuals granted temporary admission or release had conditions, such as reporting or tagging, applied. [41864]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The requested information is not centrally available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis and management information on the number of children entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers, by month, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many detainees at Campsfield House Immigration Centre have been held for more than one year; and for what reasons; [42705]

(2) how many detainees at Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre have been detained for more than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months, *(d)* one year and *(e)* two years; [42865]

(3) for how long each detainee at Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre who has been detained for more than one year has been held. [42874]

Damian Green: A subset of published information in the table below shows the number of people in Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September 2010, broken down by length of detention.

Persons in detention at Campsfield House, solely under Immigration Act powers, by length of detention as at 30 September 2010[1, 2, 5]

Length of detention[3, 4]	*Total detainees*
7 days or less	50
8 to 14 days	35
15 to 28 days	25
29 days to less than 2 months	40
2 months to less than 3 months	20
3 months to less than 6 months	25
6 months to less than 9 months	5
9 months to less than 12 months	5
12 months to less than 24 months	10
24 months to less than 36 months	5

Persons in detention at Campsfield House, solely under Immigration Act powers, by length of detention as at 30 September 2010[1, 2, 5]

Length of detention[3, 4]	*Total detainees*
Total	215

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five, may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.
[2] Figures include dependants.
[3] Relates to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.
[4] Two months is defined as 61 days; three months is defined as 92 days; six months is defined as 182 days; nine months is defined as 274 days.
[5] Management information.

It is not possible to provide the reason why a person has been detained in Campsfield House from the data extract used to produce published figures.

Management information provided by UK Border Agency suggests that a significant number of those detained for over a year are former foreign national prisoners who we are seeking to deport from the UK.

Detention plays a key role in maintaining an effective immigration control. It is used only where necessary and is kept to the shortest time possible. Each case is considered on its individual merits, and there remains a general presumption in favour of release. Many factors will be taken into account, including the risk of absconding and the risk of further harm to the public.

Deportation of these individuals can be delayed in a number of ways. Judicial challenges can be used to delay or frustrate removal. This is being tackled through improved legal case working within the UK Border Agency and closer co-operation with the judiciary. Difficulties in obtaining travel documents are taken up directly with the relevant embassy or high commission. There may also be delays in the deportation process if individuals do not comply with the UK Border Agency's efforts to re-document them.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Q4 2010 figures including information on persons detained as at 31 December will be available on 24 February 2011.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of her Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42627]

Damian Green: The Home Department is in a strong position to encourage good employment practice across its supply base and has produced a supplier charter jointly with HM Revenue and Customs.

In addition to this, the Home Department fully supports the Government's initiative on creating opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and third sector organisations. It builds from the Department's current ability to identify its small business suppliers, which comprises 43% of the suppliers used and represents 12% of its supplier spend as at January 2011.

This is complemented by the Department's good record of prompt payment within five days.

The Department is actively contributing to the cross-Government agenda which is being led by the Efficiency Reform Group.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which services provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42894]

Damian Green: The response to this parliamentary question has been split into two parts (a) information relating to the Home Department which is made up of four constituent parts—Home Office Headquarters, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA), the Identity and Passport Service (IPS), and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies which is made up of five constituent parts—Security Industry Authority (SIA), Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), and the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), as shown in the following table:

Home Department

	Period	*Number of employed interpreters*[1]	*Number of subcontracted interpreters*[2]	*Total cost of service (£)*
Home Office HQ and UKBA	1 April 2010-31 January 2011	0	2,072	4,748,052
CRB	Annually	1	0	2139.50
IPS	2009-10	Not recorded	Not recorded	1,105,715

Non-departmental public bodies

	Period	*Number of employed interpreters*[1]	*Number of subcontracted interpreters*[2]	*Total cost of service (£)*
NPIA	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return
ISA	May 2010	0	1	387.90
SIA	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return	Nil return

Non-departmental public bodies

	Period	*Number of employed interpreters*[1]	*Number of subcontracted interpreters*[2]	*Total cost of service (£)*
SOCA	2010-11	0	84	67,923
IPCC	January 2010-December 2010	0	2	3,508.04

[1] Employed interpreters relate to staff.
[2] Subcontracted interpreters relate to those employed through a contract.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left her Department's employ since May 2010; [42299]

(2) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff her Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available; [42380]

(3) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by her Department in May 2010. [42396]

Damian Green: The following tables give details which have been provided using Office for National Statistics guidelines for work force management reporting. The figures given include staff moving internally into the Home Department from other Home Office agencies as well as returning from unpaid absences such as career breaks or maternity leave. This accounts for the apparent discrepancy between the headcount and recorded leavers shown in the response.

Staff who have left the Department since May 2010

	(a) Headcount	*(b) Headcount FTE*
Home Office	1,474	1,291

Note:
Data shown are for all staff who left during the period 1 June 2010 to 31 January 2011.
Source:
Data View, the Home Office's single source of monthly Human Resources data.

Staff who are employed at the latest date for which figures are available

	(a) Headcount	*(b) Headcount FTE*
Home Office	29,721	27,840

Note:
Data shown are for all paid civil servants as per Office for National Statistics definitions.
Source:
Data View, the Home Office's single source of monthly Human Resources data.

Staff who were employed in May 2010

	(a) Headcount	*(b) Headcount FTE*
Home Office	31,459	29,440

Note:
Data shown are for all paid civil servants as per Office for National Statistics definitions.
Source:
Data View, the Home Office's single source of monthly Human Resources data.

Detention Centres

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has asked the UK Border Agency to carry out an audit of Immigration Detention Centre Rule 35 reports. [41720]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency conducted an in depth analysis of 216 reports submitted in relation to Detention Centre Rule 35 in 2010. The analysis followed discussions with a number of non-government organisations who have an interest in the UK Border Agency's detention estate and was not conducted at the request of Ministers.

The UK Border Agency expects to release the findings of the analysis in the very near future.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to protect women with an insecure immigration status from domestic violence. [42253]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* In recognition of the plight of victims of domestic violence, the domestic violence concession, previously outside the immigration rules, was brought under the rules in 2002.

Rule 289A was introduced to enable an applicant who has limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as the spouse, unmarried partner, registered civil partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or person present and settled in the UK and whose marriage or relationship breaks down during the two-year probationary period as a result of domestic violence, to be granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK. This offers the victim the security of achieving settled status and access to benefits without the need to complete the two-year probationary period.

Entry Clearances: Olympic Games 2012

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision her Department has made to handle applications for visas from non-EU countries to attend the London 2012 Olympics; and what consideration she has given to allowing extended visas for *(a)* families of athletes and *(b)* spectators. [42723]

Damian Green: The UK is obliged to comply with Olympic requirements set out in the Olympic Charter and Host City contract. Under the guarantees, an accreditation card issued to games family members will act in lieu of a visa and work permit for up to six months.

The UK Border Agency has introduced an Olympic/Paralympic games visit visa to facilitate entry to the UK in advance of the games for participants. The visa (valid for multiple entries until 8 November 2012) is now available for the price of a six month single entry visit visa. This visa will facilitate easy and cheaper entry to the UK for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) members, competitors and officials coming for the test events and training before the accreditation period. At games time, participants will be issued with an accreditation card which will act as a visa waiver.

This visa is only available to those individuals identified as participating in the games in a professional capacity. Spectators and families of athletes coming to visit the UK during the games will be subject to the usual requirements of a visit and will be required to apply for a standard visitor's visa. For foreign nationals not requiring a visa it will be possible to visit the UK for up to six months without a visa.

The UK Border Agency has been working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG) and the IOC to communicate key messages about visa requirements to the Olympic/Paralympic Family.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what bogus colleges have been closed in each year since 2007. [42159]

Damian Green: Prior to April 2009, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and previously the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) was responsible for the register of education establishments able to bring in students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA). At the point it was replaced by the Points Based System register of licensed Tier 4 sponsors, the register listed a total of 14,838 establishments, of which approximately 4,000 regularly took non-EEA students. As of 1 February 2011 the Tier 4 register lists 2,313 licensed Tier 4 sponsors.

Since 31 March 2009 the following total numbers of educational establishments' licenses have been revoked:

	Number
2009	16
2010	44
2011	3

Revocation of an educational establishment's sponsor licence does not prevent it from operating. The UK Border Agency is unable to close education or training providers, but it can remove their ability to recruit students from outside the European Economic Area.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from foreign Governments on the Government's proposals for student visas. [42831]

Damian Green: A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. Four submissions from overseas Governments were received. In addition, the UK Border Agency officials have held meetings with a number of representatives from missions in the UK. Responses to the student consultation are being considered. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment, including details of those who have responded, will be published in due course.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been arrested on suspicion of human trafficking offences in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [40282]

Damian Green: This information is not collected at local authority level.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overstayers were identified *(a)* on embarkation from the UK and *(b)* through enforcement action in each of the last five years. [42763]

Damian Green: It is not possible to provide the number of overstayers identified on embarkation from the UK, as this information is not recorded centrally. To establish these figures would require the manual examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. By 2015 exit checks will have been reintroduced which are vital in checking that people have left the country when they are supposed to.

The following table shows the number of individuals, recorded as overstayers, arrested during enforcement operations for each financial year from 2007-08 (the earliest year for which such data are available) to date.

Please note, all data are sourced from management information tools and are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

National Statistics on removals and voluntary departures from the UK are published on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

However, it is not possible to separately identify overstayers from the published figures.

	Overstayers arrested
2007-08	3,293
2008-09	3,207
2009-10	2,387
2010-11 (to end of January)	2,399

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK Border Agency to release its audit of forms completed in accordance with Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules, on victims of torture and others with special illnesses and conditions. [42706]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency audit in relation to Detention Centre Rule 35 has been concluded. The UK Border Agency expects to release the report in the near future.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency plans to publish in full an unedited audit of forms completed in accordance with Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules on victims of torture and others with special illnesses and conditions. [42707]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency audit report in relation to Detention Centre Rule 35 will be published in a full and unedited format in the near future.

Immigrants: Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she was consulted on the Positions on the rights of migrants in an irregular situation Position Paper (CommDH/PositionPaper/2010/5) from the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights; and if she will make a statement. [41900]

Damian Green: The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights acts in an independent capacity. Accordingly the Home Secretary was not consulted on his findings and recommendations. They will be taken into account to the extent that they are consistent with the Government's immigration policy and are in the national interest.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department was represented at the 1103rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers held on 19 January 2011; what her response is to the recommendations adopted on interaction between migrants and receiving societies (CM/Rec(2011)1) and on validating migrants' skills (CM/Rec(2011)2); what assessment she has made of the potential effect these recommendations would have on the UK; and if she will make a statement. [41901]

Damian Green: The UK was represented in the meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 19 January by the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe. The recommendations adopted at this meeting are not binding on the member states. The Government will consider the implications of these recommendations in developing the Government's overall approach to integration and immigration policy and will take into account any recommendations that it considers to be in the UK's national interest.

Immigration Controls

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been admitted to the UK at *(a)* sub-tier Tier 1 (Investor) and *(b)* sub-tier Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) of the points-based immigration system in each year since the system's inception. [41582]

Damian Green: The available statistics on the number of persons given leave to enter the United Kingdom on *(a)* sub-tier Tier 1 (Investor) and *(b)* sub-tier Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) of the points-based immigration system, 2008-09 are given in the table.

Passengers[1] given leave to enter the United Kingdom under PBS[2] Tier 1—Investor[3] or Entrepreneur[3] categories, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 2008-09

	Number of journeys	
Categories	*2008*	*2009[4]*
Tier 1—Entrepreneur	25	125
Tier 1—Investors	20	110
Total	45	235

[1] Figures rounded to three significant figures.
[2] Points Based System (PBS).
[3] The Tier 1 Investor and Entrepreneur categories were introduced on 30 June 2008. Data for that year are therefore not comparable with 2009 as they are for a partial year.
[4] Provisional figures.

It is planned to publish statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey for the first two quarters of 2010 on 24 February 2011 in the Home Office publication, "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical summary United Kingdom October-December 2010".

Subsequently, quarterly arrival data will be released every six months, with quarters 1 and 2 published in February of each year and 3 and 4 published in August. These data will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 527W, on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, whether the police were involved in either investigation. [41948]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* I can confirm that the police were notified of both cases I referred to in my answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 527W.

In both instances, the police advised the UK Border Agency and Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre when their inquiries had been concluded and that they would be taking no further action.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: West Midlands

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much the Arts Council spent per head of population in the *(a)* South Staffordshire district council and *(b)* Birmingham city council area in the latest period for which figures are available. [42824]

Mr Vaizey: This information is not held in the manner requested.

However, Arts Council England (ACE) has advised that council and constituency boundaries are similar. As such, ACE has provided the following figures that relate to constituencies only:

(a) South Staffordshire: £1.18 spend per head (incorporating: South Staffordshire and Stafford)

(b) Birmingham: £24.68 spend per head (incorporating: Edgbaston, Erdington, Hall Green, Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Northfield, Perry Barr, Selly Oak, Yardley, Sparkbrook and Small Heath).

Departmental Policy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42612]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department takes the Compact into account in developing relevant policies.

Gambling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what evidence he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) effectiveness of the problem gambling helpline and (ii) relative merits of the freephone helpline in improving access to treatment and advice for those seeking assistance. [41759]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission, the Responsible Gaming Strategy Board and the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) have all looked into this issue and have concluded that an easily recognised name and national freephone number would remove barriers to take-up; particularly among the vast majority of the population that uses mobile phones. The RGF is currently tendering for the operation of such a service.

National Lottery: Retail Trade

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will instruct the National Lottery Commission to review the appropriateness of decisions by Camelot National Lotteries relating to the supply of lottery terminals to *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* The Co-operative and *(c)* independent retailers. [42804]

John Penrose *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Camelot takes into account clear criteria when selecting retailers, such as footfall, store size and sales projection. The same selection criteria apply across all retailers and each case is judged on its own merits. As long as Camelot follows these criteria, the decision as to where to place national lottery terminals is a commercial decision and the National Lottery Commission is not involved in this process.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that Northern Ireland benefits from the London 2012 Olympics. [41800]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 Games.

Northern Ireland stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games through businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how Northern Ireland will benefit from the Games are as follows.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has awarded contracts to five direct suppliers in Northern Ireland. For example, Lagan Construction was awarded the contract to construct 'central park bridge' in the Olympic Park that links the Basketball Arena, the Aquatics Centre and the Olympic Stadium.

Information on businesses in Northern Ireland that have directly supplied the ODA is available in the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

This information does not include contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. Examples of companies based in Northern Ireland further down the supply chains include McGrath Brothers from Belfast, which supplied architectural metalwork for the Olympic Village and Macrete Concrete from County Antrim, which has worked on support structures for bridges and highways.

So far, 1,[illegible]61 companies in Northern Ireland have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised), and four contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers in Northern Ireland.

Over 16,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's London 2012 education programme Get Set, 220 schools and colleges are registered in Northern Ireland. 10 schools in Northern Ireland have also developed links with nine schools and one youth centre in Jordan as part of the London 2012 International Inspiration Programme.

Over 1,000 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark, 31 of these are in Northern Ireland. One example, Active8—a SportNI-led participation programme with the Olympic Values at its core—is engaging pupils aged seven to 11 in sport and physical activity. Activ8 Eatwell is a recent programme which promotes active and healthy lifestyles for children by teaching them about physical activity and healthy eating.

In addition, Northern Ireland has received £1.31 million from the Legacy Trust for a programme which will tackle aspects of personal development, communication and physical 'literacy' with elements of dance, gymnastics, music and poetry, theatre and visual arts.

Olympic Games 2012: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plan to take to encourage children and young people in St Albans to participate in events that are part of the London 2012 Olympics. [42739]

Hugh Robertson: It is important that children and young people from across the UK are actively encouraged to participate in the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over 16,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games' (LOCOG) education programme Get Set, with 487 schools and colleges registered in Hertfordshire. LOCOG launched the official London 2012 mascots last year, which are now inspiring children and young people. LOCOG hosted a 'Get Set to make your mascot' school competition. The winning primary and secondary schools win a visit from Wenlock or Mandeville in the summer term—ideally to their school sports day.

Over 1,000 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark, with 84 of these in the East of England. One example, which schools in Hertfordshire including St Albans are participating in, is Supporter to Reporter (S2R). S2R gives young people sports reporting opportunities at national and local events. Participants receive training to produce audio, video, text and image reports with content then published on the youth-led website.

Young Ambassadors is a London 2012 programme managed by Youth Sport Trust which has been running in England, Scotland and Wales. It was the first initiative to receive the London 2012 Inspire mark for education. It involves young people being recruited to be ambassadors, working in their schools and communities to champion sport and the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The School Games will give every school the opportunity to get involved. Sport England has commissioned the Youth Sport Trust to test how to deliver School Games in nine pilot areas. In June or July 2011, these sites will host the first 'School Games' Days in 500 schools and the first nine 'Festivals of Sport'. All schools will be given the opportunity to participate from September 2011 with the first national finals taking place in the Olympic Stadium in May 2012.

In addition, I announced the 'Places People Play' programme in November, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further detail can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in *(a)* St Albans constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and what the monetary value of such contracts is. [42740]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses in the East of England that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

The estimated value of contracts awarded to businesses in Hertfordshire is £1,147,811,580, of this the value of contracts awarded to businesses in St Albans is £3,179,151. These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the value of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many residents of *(a)* St Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire are employed (i) by the London Organisational Committee of the Olympic Games, (ii) by the Olympic Delivery Authority and (iii) at the London 2012 Olympics site; what steps his Department is taking to increase employment opportunities created by the hosting of the London 2012 Olympics; and how many jobs in Hertfordshire he expects to be created by the London 2012 Olympics. [42741]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG) is a private company and so does not report its staff figures to the Department. Its annual report, which includes information about the numbers of staff it employs, is available at:

www.london2012.com

As at 31 December 2010 the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) had 288 directly employed members of staff, of which one resided in St Albans and five in Hertfordshire.

The ODA publishes information on the Olympic Park contractor work force in its quarterly 'Jobs, Futures, Skills' newsletter. The most recent edition can be found at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/documents/oda-publications/jobs-skills-futures/jsf-bulletin-january11.pdf

The ODA forecasts that 30,000 people will work on the Olympic Park and Village over the life of the construction programme. LOCOG estimates that during Games-time it will require a work force of approximately 6,000 paid staff, up to 70,000 volunteers and 100,000 staff working for the contractor work force. No specific assessment has been made of the numbers that have been or will be employed from Hertfordshire.

The ODA and its partners have put a range of measures in place to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the site. These include investing in training and apprenticeship opportunities. LOCOG published its employment and skills strategy in August 2010 and is available at:

http://www.london2012.com/

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many tickets to Olympic events have been allocated for sale; and what estimate has been made of the revenue which will accrue from sales of tickets to *(a)* members of the public in the UK and the EU, *(b)* sports federations, *(c)* national Olympic committees, *(d)* members of the public in other countries, *(e)* corporate sponsors, *(f)* rights-holding broadcasters and *(g)* hospitality package buyers. [42738]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is the private company responsible for staging the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the ticketing arrangements. LOCOG needs to raise around £500 million from ticket revenues towards its primarily privately financed £2 billion budget to stage the Games.

There are no free tickets. 8.8 million tickets will be available for purchase for the Olympic Games from 15 March 2011, with a further 2 million tickets available from September for the Paralympic Games. Around three-quarters will be available to the UK public for purchase. The application process must also be open to EU residents, but the vast majority of the 2.3 million people signed-up with LOCOG for ticketing information in advance of the 15 March are UK residents. Of the remaining 25% of tickets, approximately 12% will be available for purchase to 205 National Olympic Committees around the world for international sports fans; 8% will be available for purchase to sponsors and stakeholders; and 5% will be available for purchase to International Sports Federations, the International Olympic Committee, broadcast rights holders, for prestige hospitality packages and for domestic holiday packages via Thomas Cook.

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of work carried out in preparation for the London 2012 Olympics that has been undertaken by companies based in Wales. [42908]

Hugh Robertson: Welsh companies have made a significant contribution to the delivery of the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games, either by supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) directly or through the supply chains of the major tier one contractors. These include Rowecord in Newport, who have provided the steel for the Aquatics Centre, Cardiff based Euroclad have won contracts on both the Olympic Stadium and the Media Centre, and Fairfield Mabey from Newport who have supplied structural steel for infrastructure on the Olympic Park.

It is not possible to provide a definitive figure for the work undertaken by Welsh companies on the 2012 construction programme. However, the ODA estimates that approximately £37 million pounds worth of contracts have been awarded to Welsh companies operating at tiers two and three of the ODA's major contractors.

Sports: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 800W, on sport: finance, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of monitoring regional variations in funding for *(a)* the Big Lottery and *(b)* Sport England. [42689]

Hugh Robertson: There is no need for any monitoring by, or cost to, the Department. The Big Lottery Fund (BLF) asks applicants to identify where its funding will be used. This information is collected and analysed at minimum cost. BLF regularly monitor these data to ensure that communities receive a fair share of lottery money. It is freely accessible throughout the organisation and therefore the BLF does not monitor its cost. Sport England does not hold a regional breakdown of funding, and while I have not made an estimate, it would exceed the disproportionate cost limit considerably to commission the work, and that is without considering the cost of monitoring.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the extent of regional variation in funding per head in the distribution of Big Lottery funding in the last year for which figures are available. [42553]

John Penrose: I have not made such an assessment and my Department does not hold lottery grant information in this format. However, details of lottery grants made by the Big Lottery Fund and other lottery distributors can be found at the following link:

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to support the Big Society initiative. [42637]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department's Business Plan includes details of the work it is undertaking to support the big society which can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/DCMS-Business-Plan_2010-15.pdf

Tourism

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on support for the development of tourism in the South West. [41550]

John Penrose: The Government are creating a new international marketing fund for tourism. We are looking to create a fund of more than £100 million, with major companies already pledging support to help match the £50 million of public money the Government have committed through VisitBritain over the next four years.

We are also investing nearly £33 million in VisitEngland over four years which will focus on promoting the domestic tourism industry and supporting destination management organisations, local authorities and emerging local enterprise partnerships. Tourism in the South West will benefit from both funding initiatives.

In addition, the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) presents an important opportunity for tourism. Ministers have encouraged the tourism sector to apply.

Tourism: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to provide assistance to tourism businesses in Maidstone and the Weald constituency. [42593]

John Penrose: The Government are creating a new international marketing fund for tourism. We are looking to create a fund of more than £100 million, with major companies already pledging support to help match the £50 million of public money the Government have committed through VisitBritain over the next four years.

We are also investing nearly £33 million in VisitEngland over four years which will focus on promoting the domestic tourism industry and supporting destination management organisations, local authorities and emerging local enterprise partnerships. Tourism in Maidstone and the Weald will benefit from both funding initiatives.

In addition, the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) presents an important opportunity for tourism. Ministers have encouraged the tourism sector to apply.

TRANSPORT

A14: Ipswich

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of road *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* improvements on the A14 between junctions 53 and 55 in 2009-10. [42826]

Mike Penning: Maintenance costs of £6.122 million were incurred on the A14 between junctions 53 and 55 in 2009-10. In addition, technology works over this section, as part of a complete A14 improvement project, were valued at £1.038 million.

The maintenance costs are made up as follows:

Two road maintenance schemes between the Claydon Interchange (junction 52) and the Copdock Interchange (A12/A14 junction 55) totalling £4.322 million. A safety improvement scheme (£3.472 million) involving improvements to drainage and safety barriers, and a maintenance scheme (£0.850 million) involving the refurbishment of the carriageways.

A structural maintenance scheme valued at £1.8 million.

Aviation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of *(a)* airlines and *(b)* pilots since May 2010. [40967]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 176W given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Aviation: Conditions of Employment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in 24 hours. [40963]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 177W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Air Travel Trust Fund

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Air Travel Trust Fund to next report a surplus. [40729]

Mrs Villiers: The Air Travel Trust Funds meets the cost of refunds and repatriation arising from the insolvency of a travel company under the Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) scheme. The deficit of the Air Travel Trust Fund was reported as £31.8 million in the Funds' annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010. One of the objectives of the reforms to the ATOL scheme that I announced to the House on 3 February 2011 is to reduce the Air Travel Trust Fund's deficit and return it to financial sustainability. It is expected that the Fund will be in surplus within three years of the reforms being implemented. The precise timing depends on a number of factors including the frequency and cost of travel company insolvencies.

Aviation: Safety

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to reduce the minimum rest period for airline pilots to seven and a half hours; [39742]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that national standards on flight time limitations for commercial pilots are maintained once the European Aviation Safety Agency takes responsibility in this area. [39743]

Mrs Villiers: The European Aviation Safety Agency published draft legislation for consultation on 20 December 2010. The consultation closes on 20 March. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently reviewing the proposals. It will respond to the consultation once it has completed its review. Our aim is to ensure that the final requirements maintain a high level of safety for UK airlines.

The EU already has competence in this area and it will not be possible to apply additional national standards once the requirements have come into effect.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the airline industry on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to change flight time limitations for pilots. [39753]

Mrs Villiers: I have not so far received any formal representations from the airline industry on this matter.

Aviation: Working Hours

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* airlines and *(b)* pilots' representatives since May 2010 [40848]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 176W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Council of Ministers on *(a)* the European Aviation Safety Agency and *(b)* flight time limitations. [40851]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the airline industry on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to change flight time limitations for pilots. [40853]

Mrs Villiers: I have not received any formal representations from the airline industry on this matter so far.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the implementation of the European Union Bill will affect the transfer of authority over flight time limitations from the Civil Aviation Authority to the European Aviation Safety Agency. [40854]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 177W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in one day. [40855]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 177W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government plans to respond to the European Aviation Safety Agency's Notice of Proposed Amendment for flight time limitations. [40856]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 177-178W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to respond to the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment for flight time limitations. [40964]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 177-78W given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has with the Council of Ministers on *(a)* the European Aviation Safety Agency and *(b)* proposals for limits on flight times. [40966]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 176W given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of implementation of the provisions of the European Union Bill on the transfer of authority over flight time limitations from the Civil Aviation Authority to the European Aviation Safety Agency. [41004]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 177W given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the airline industry on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to change flight time limitations for pilots. [41005]

Mrs Villiers: I have not so far received any formal representations from the airline industry on this matter.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he will use to determine whether his policy on the changes to pilots' flight time limitations proposed by the European Aviation Safety Agency provide an appropriate level of safety. [41074]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr Gray) of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 966W.

Cycling: Accidents

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to protect cyclists from injury in accidents involving heavy goods vehicles *(a)* in inner city areas and *(b)* elsewhere; and if he will make a statement. [42724]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is pursuing a number of measures to reduce pedal cycle fatalities in collisions with HGVs. We continue to raise the standard of driver training and support local authority initiatives in raising awareness among both cyclists and HGV drivers of the risk. In particular we support the initiatives by TfL to address this issue in London.

Vehicle safety regulation is made at the EU level and Regulations mandate side guards and improved mirrors on most HGVs. However, there is still an issue of a blind spot on many vehicles and research is currently under way how to address the issue of improving driver vision from all types of HGVs. I visited a manufacturer in my constituency last week which is addressing these specific issues.

Cycling: Training

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the provision of cycle training funded by Bikeability of adopting *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three year funding cycles. [42946]

Norman Baker: The Government have committed to support Bikeability cycle training for the remainder of this Parliament to signal our strong and continuing support for this programme. For 2011-12, £11 million of grant funding will be made available to local authorities and School Sports Partnerships, providing the opportunity for more than 275,000 children to receive Bikeability training. Later this year, prior to decisions on 2012-13 funding, the Department for Transport will review the allocation of Bikeability grants, including consideration of any benefits of multi-year grant arrangements.

Departmental NDPBs

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets have been set for the work of the Driving Standards Agency. [39334]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency's targets are laid out in its annual business plan. Business plans are published on the agency's corporate website and copies of which have been laid in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37390]

Norman Baker: Since May 2010, my Department has not revoked any regulatory measures other than those revoked by measures that replaced them. However, it is possible that regulations sponsored by the Department for Transport have been revoked by instruments for which other Departments have policy responsibility. In the last few months, the Department has launched a review of employment law and is conducting a fundamental review scrutinising the overall stock of Department for Transport regulation, alongside legacy measures inherited from the previous Administration. These have yet to conclude.

Driving: Training

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will put driver awareness courses on a national footing so that those who elect to go on such courses as an alternative to a driving penalty are able to do so at a local centre rather than in the area where the offence was committed. [42165]

Mike Penning: These driver awareness courses are offered by police forces as alternatives to intended prosecutions. There are nationally recognised schemes developed by the National Driver Offender Retraining Schemes (NDORS) initiative and operated by many police forces.

For example, the NDORS initiative for speed awareness courses is used by the vast majority of English police forces. Hence it offers drivers resident in a participating police force area the opportunity to take a course at a local centre rather than one near where they were detected speeding, provided the force detecting the speeding also participates in the scheme.

I am working with the police towards the aim of all English forces participating in NDORS.

However, the decisions about whether, and if so what, alternatives to potential prosecution to offer are for local police forces and police authorities to make. I am therefore reluctant to dictate how police forces must operate in respect of driver awareness courses. Such decisions are rightly influenced by local priorities, policies, resources and other circumstances.

Electric Vehicles

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average rate of use of charging points for electric vehicles in the last six months. [37672]

Norman Baker: We do not have access to data on recharging for all EV charging points in the UK, as many of these have been put in by businesses for use by employees or the public.

Data will be available on the usage of EV charging infrastructure installed as part of the Plugged-In Places programme. These data will start to be available once the back-offices for the schemes are installed. All eight back-offices are expected to be complete by autumn 2011.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of *(a)* nitrogen dioxide and *(b)* particulate matter emissions of greater use of electric power by buses and taxis. [41876]

Norman Baker: No detailed assessment of the air quality benefits a greater use of electric buses and taxis has been undertaken by the Department for Transport. However, as electric vehicles have zero tail pipe emissions there will be local air quality benefits with the increased use of such vehicles.

Maritime Rescue Services: Closures

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 58W, on sea rescue: closures, who conducted the impact assessment associated with the proposals set out in "Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century"; and if he will make a statement. [41432]

Mike Penning: The consultation document, together with the suite of documents published by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on 11 February, represents the collective, corporate position of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and its chief executive, Sir Alan Massey.

Lorries: Accidents

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries were caused by accidents involving large goods vehicles in each year from 2000 to 2010. [41872]

Mike Penning: The number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries in reported accidents involving a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) for each year from 2000-09 is given in the following table. It is not possible to determine from the data whether the HGV caused the accident.

Number of casualties by severity in reported accidents involving at least one HGV[1] GB: 2000-09

		Number of casualties
	(a) Killed	*(b) Seriously injured*
2000	560	2,719
2001	575	2,564
2002	532	2,374
2003	528	2,111
2004	449	1,884
2005	486	1,785
2006	419	1,700
2007	435	1,574
2008	368	1,344
2009	268	1,171

[1] Goods vehicles with a maximum gross vehicle weight of 3.5 tonnes or over.

Data for 2010 will be published in summer 2011.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many road traffic accidents involving large goods vehicles driver tiredness was found to be a contributory factor in each year from 2000 to 2010. [41873]

Mike Penning: The number of reported personal injury road accidents where the contributory factor "Fatigue" was assigned to the driver of a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) is given in the following table. It is not possible to determine from the data whether the HGV caused the accident:

Reported personal injury road accidents involving a driver of a HGV[1] to whom a contributory factor "Fatigue" assigned: Great Britain, 2005-09

Contributory factor[2]: Fatigue	*Number of accidents*
2005	155
2006	172
2007	143
2008	110
2009	95

[1] Goods vehicles with a maximum gross vehicle weight of 3.5 tonnes or over.

[2] Includes only personal injury road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Contributory factor data have only been collected since 2005. Data for 2010 will be published in summer 2011.

Lorry Drivers: Sleep Apnoea

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many road traffic accidents involving large goods vehicles the driver was found to be suffering from obstructive sleep apnoea in each year from 2000 to 2010. [41874]

Mike Penning: Some crashes involving heavy goods vehicles are identified as being wholly or partly caused by fatigue or falling asleep at the wheel, but there are no figures to indicate the role of obstructive sleep apnoea in most of these cases.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicle licence holders have had their licences suspended pending treatment for obstructive sleep apnoea in each year from 2000 to 2010. [41875]

Mike Penning: Driving licences cannot be suspended, instead the law allows for them to be revoked. Data on the number of licences revoked pending treatment for obstructive sleep apnoea is only held since 2004 and combines drivers with both large goods vehicle and/or passenger carrying vehicle driving entitlement. These volumes are shown in the following table.

	Number
2004	67
2005	66
2006	56
2007	61
2008	44
2009	44
2010	37

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications for heavy goods vehicle licences were refused because the applicant was suffering from obstructive sleep apnoea in each year from 2000 to 2010. [41967]

Mike Penning: Information on how many applications for a driving licence were refused because the applicant was suffering from sleep apnoea is only available since 2004 and combines both large goods vehicle and/or passenger carrying vehicle driving entitlement. These volumes are shown in the following table.

	Number
2004	67
2005	68
2006	88
2007	132
2008	127
2009	121
2010	100

Network Rail: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what savings Network Rail has identified to date to contribute to its efficiency savings over the regulatory period; and in what areas of its operations such savings are expected to arise. [42312]

Mrs Villiers: The independent Office of Rail Regulation has set Network Rail a requirement to make efficiency savings of 21% over Control Period 4—which covers 2009 to 2014—in the operation, maintenance and renewal of the national network. It falls to the Office of Rail Regulation to monitor Network Rail's progress towards achieving this target on a continuous basis.

Pedestrian Crossings

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bodies are responsible for providing safe crossing routes for *(a)* school children and *(b)* other pedestrians at locations where lights-controlled crossings are not operational; and if he will make a statement. [42190]

Mike Penning: The provision of pedestrian crossing facilities on the public highway, including crossing facilities not controlled by traffic signals, is a matter for the relevant highway authority.

Maritime Rescue Services: Fife Ness

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the Fife Ness coastguard service was called out in the last three years; and for what types of incident. [42815]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) at Forth is located within Fife Ness. The following statistics outline the incidents the MRCC coordinated over the last three years.

It should be noted that the MRCC coordinates search and rescue during incidents. It is the volunteer coastguard rescue service and other search and rescue responders, such as the RNLI who respond to incidents.

Incidents for Forth (Including alarm, distress and uncertainty(ADU)) by revised incident Type/Year

Revised Incident type	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
AAID - Aircraft appears in difficulties	—	—	2	2
AE - Aircraft Emergency	6	5	2	13
ANR- Animal Rescue	1	1	4	6
AOA - Assisting other authorities	25	33	64	122

Incidents for Forth (Including alarm, distress and uncertainty(ADU)) by revised incident Type/Year

Revised Incident type	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
APS - Accident prevention and surveillance	4	7	9	20
DD - Diver - In difficulties	4	2	2	8
DM - Diver medical	3	5	4	12
DO - Diver Overdue or missing	1	—	—	1
E- Exercise	8	10	3	21
FAGI - False Alert - Good intent	81	122	129	332
FAMI - False Alert - Malicious intent	16	13	10	39
FLT - Flare Report Telephone	1	9	2	12
FO - Fault - Other	1	—	—	1
G121.5 -121.5 Transmission	1	—	—	1
G243 - 243 Transmission	1	—	—	1
G406 -406 Transmission	2	3	1	6
GDSCV - DSC VHF	—	2	—	2
ML - Medical evacuation from land	4	4	6	14
MRA - Medical Radio Medical Advice	—	1	—	1
MS - Medical evacuation from vessel	6	6	8	20
OL - Ordnance - On land	4	1	5	10
OS - Ordnance at sea	6	3	4	13
PB - Persons - Body recovery	1	3	6	10
PC - Persons - Cut off or stranded	31	45	44	120
PILL - Persons - Illness	—	2	1	3
PINJ - Persons - Injured	8	9	9	26
PIW - Persons - In water	21	26	36	83
PMIS - Persons - Missing	5	9	8	22
POC - Persons - on cliff	5	8	13	26
PS - Persons - Suicide or attempted suicide	20	19	33	72
PSIM - Person stuck in mud	3	1	1	5
T- Training	5	3	2	10
VAB - Vessel - Abandoned	3	3	3	9
VAD - Vessel - Adverse conditions	3	8	5	16
VAG - Vessel - Aground	11	21	8	40
VAID - Vessel appears in difficulties	6	17	9	32
VCAP - Vessel - Capsized	5	8	8	21
VCOL - Vessel - Collision	—	1	—	1
VD - Vessel - Drifting or dragging anchor	5	9	13	27
VDEF - Vessel - DEFREP or Machinery Failure	35	52	54	141
VF - Vessel - Fire or explosion	1	—	—	1
VFUEL - Vessel - Out of fuel	3	6	7	16
VGF - Vessel - Gear fouled	4	2	4	10
VHI - Vessel Hazardous Incident	—	1	5	6
VMOB - Vessel - Man overboard	—	2	—	2
VO - Vessel - Overdue	—	4	1	5
VPF - Vessel Propeller fouled	4	2	4	10
VPIR - Vessel - Piracy or hijack	1	—	—	1
VS - Vessel Sinking	2	1	3	6
VSMR - Vessel Sail, mast or rigging failure	—	2	—	2
VSUNK - Vessel - Sunk	4	—	—	4
VTW - Vessel - Taking water	2	1	9	12
VUP - Vessel Unsure of position	—	2	1	3
WCI - Watercraft inflatable	2	3	1	6
WCP - Watercraft powered	1	1	5	7
WCUN - Watercraft unpowered	6	7	5	18
Other	6	3	3	12
Grand Total	378	508	556	1,442

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in the level of the *(a)* Road Safety Capital Grant and *(b)* Road Safety Revenue Grant reduction in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [42822]

Mike Penning: No payments of either the specific road safety capital grant or the dedicated road safety resource grant (or road safety funding stream within the area based grant) are planned to be made during the comprehensive spending review period from 2011-12 to 2014-15.

In the case of the specific road safety capital grant this is because the capital funding streams paid by the Department for Transport to local authorities have been simplified radically. The number of these transport capital funding streams has been reduced from 26 to four.

This is to assist increasing local control, participation and accountability in the use of resources by enabling local communities to decide their own priorities and set their budgets according to local, not national, priorities. More details about local transport capital funding are on the Department for Transport's website.

In the case of revenue funding, the local transport elements of the former area based grant have been rolled into the general formula grant for the comprehensive spending review period. These local transport elements were the resource funding streams for road safety, the maintenance of de-trunked roads and rural bus subsidy grant.

The general formula grant paid to local authorities has been increased for 2011-12 and subsequent years by an adjustment of £112 million in the 2010-11 baseline. This adjusted figure for 2010-11 is then used in the calculation of the 2011-12 revenue support grant settlement.

Detailed information is published in the local government finance section of the Department of Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ssas.htm

UN Decade of Road Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is to be nominated as the national focal point for the UN Decade of Road Safety; and when that nomination is to be made to the World Health Organisation. [37839]

Mike Penning: The role of the national focal point is a working level role, dealing with information sent by the World Health Organisation such as research and providing data on request.

An official from the division dealing with road safety within the Department for Transport will be the national focal point for the UN Decade of Road Safety. We are in the process of notifying the World Health Organisation of this nomination.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on adoption procedures; and if he will make a statement. [40917]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* I regularly receive representations about adoption from Members of Parliament, adopters, adoption professionals, voluntary organisations, councillors and members of the public. I also receive valuable feedback and advice from my Ministerial Advisory Group on Adoption and from the Department's Adoption Stakeholder Group, both of which include representatives from local authorities and the voluntary sector. I also recently held a roundtable event with a group of adopters to hear their views on what is working well and what needs to improve, and plan shortly to hold a similar event with a group of adopted children.

Apprentices

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people aged 14 to 16 years have participated in a young apprenticeship in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* West Lancashire constituency in each of the last three years. [37690]

Mr Gibb: Starts to the programme in England and for the North West are shown in the following table. Data are not collected by constituency.

As at September	*YA Cohort*	*National planned places*	*National starts*	*North West starts*
2008	Cohort 5	9,000	9,232	1,302
2009	Cohort 6	9,000	7,671	1,124
2010	Cohort 7	10,000	9,365	1,065

Apprentices: Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he plans to allocate to young apprenticeships in each of the next four years. [37688]

Mr Gibb: We are currently considering the implications of the spending review settlement—including budgets for the Young Apprenticeship programme.

The outcomes of Professor Alison Wolf's Review of Vocational Education, due to report in spring 2011, will inform our decision about the future of the Young Apprenticeship programme.

Children: Care Homes and Foster Care

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children aged *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 were in (i) residential care and (ii) foster care in (A) 1990, (B) 2000 and (C) 2010. [34410]

Tim Loughton: The information is not available for 1990. The earliest year for which this information is available is 1992 and this has been included in the following table with the information for 2000 and 2010.

Children looked after at 31 March aged (a) 5, (b) 10 and (c) 15 in (i) residential care and (ii) foster care[1, 2, 3, 4] Years ending 31 March 1992, 2000 and 2010 Coverage: England

Numbers

	Residential care			*Foster care*		
Age at31 March	*1992*	*2000*	*2010*	*1992*	*2000*	*2010*
5	90	40	10	1,500	1,700	1,700
10	400	360	140	1,800	2,300	2,400
15	1,900	1,700	1,600	2,800	3,100	4,300

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Children in residential care include children looked after and placed in secure units, children placed in homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes Regulations, children placed in residential accommodation (hostels and supportive residential settings) not subject to Children's homes regulations, children placed in residential settings and children in all residential schools, except where dual-registered as a school and children's home.

[4] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which for 1992 and 2010 cover all children looked after and for 2000 have been derived from the one third sample.

Source:

SSDA903

Children: Disadvantaged

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his estimate is of the level of deprivation for school children resident in *(a)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency and *(b)* Lancashire using as a measure (i) eligibility for free school meals and (ii) the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007. [37317]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] resident in (a) Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency and (b) Lancashire known to be eligible for free school meals in 2010

	Number of pupils[1] eligible for free school meals	*Percentage of pupils[1] eligible for free school meals*
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	2,402	22.3
Lancashire	23,456	15.3

[1] Includes full-time and part-time pupils who are sole or dual registrations, attending maintained nursery, primary, middle deemed primary, secondary and middle deemed secondary schools, City Technology Colleges, Academies and all Special Schools. Includes Boarders.

[2] Pupils eligible for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

Source:

School Census (Final)

(ii) Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] resident in (a) Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency and (b) Lancashire by IDACI[3, 4] deprivation decile in 2010

	Blackpool North and Cleveleys		*Lancashire*	
IDACI decile34	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils*
0-10% most deprived	1,940	17.4	16,289	10.0
10-20	706	6.3	18,311	11.2
20-30	626	5.6	14,839	9.1
30-40	1,973	17.7	16,232	9.9
40-50	2,084	18.7	12,311	7.5
50-60	1,783	16.0	12,432	7.6
60-70	930	8.3	15,984	9.8
70-80	340	3.1	16,934	10.4
80-90	554	5.0	19,459	11.9
90-100 least deprived	210	1.9	20,682	12.7

[1] Includes full-time and part-time pupils who are sole or dual registrations, attending maintained nursery, primary, middle deemed primary, secondary and middle deemed secondary schools, City Technology Colleges, Academies and all Special Schools. Includes Boarders.

[2] Pupils with known home postcode in full or part time attendance attending maintained nursery schools, in National Curriculum Year Groups Reception -Year 14 and pupils attending special schools who do not follow the National Curriculum.

[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices. Each SOA in England is given a score which ranks it between 1 and 32,482 — 1 being the most deprived.

[4] IDACI bands are based on 2007 IDACI scores.

Source:

School Census (Final)

Children: Protection

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to repeal Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils. [37217]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* There are no plans to repeal section 175 of the Education Act 2002. This section was introduced following the tragic death of Lauren Wright, to ensure that schools do not ignore or overlook guidance on safeguarding in schools issued by my Department. The section assists governing bodies of schools in making such arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.

College of Social Work

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will investigate the use of public funds provided for the establishment of the College of Social Work by the Social Care Institute for Excellence and the Interim Board of the College of Social Work. [41232]

Tim Loughton: Following the publication of the Social Work Task Force Report, the Department for Education committed to match £2.5 million of funding made available by the Department of Health to support the establishment of an independent, national college of social work. This Department's funds have not yet been allocated and officials are in discussions regarding the appropriate time that further funds will need to be made available to meet the emerging business development plan. Both Departments have recently investigated concerns raised with us in relation to the college's use of public funds and are reassured that there is no actual or proposed misuse.

College of Social Work: British Association of Social Workers

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will meet the Chair and Chief Executive of the British Association of Social Workers to discuss the College of Social Work. [36595]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* Ministers have already discussed this matter with the chief executive of the British Association of Social Workers on numerous occasions. They have recently written to both the College of Social Work and the British Association of Social Workers urging the two organisations to resume discussions on convergence and offering their services to help, if necessary, and a meeting has now happened.

College of Social Work: Social Care Institute for Excellence

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to the Social Care Institute for Excellence since the announcement of the College of Social Work; and how much funding he has allocated to the Social Care Institute for Excellence in each of the next five years. [36593]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* The Social Care Institute for Excellence has been asked to facilitate the establishment of the College of Social Work, providing administrative support and expertise in a developmental phase of two years. The Department of Health has made £2.5 million available for this work. The Department of Education has committed to match this funding and officials are in discussions as to the appropriate time to make funds available to meet the emerging business development plan.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many agency workers his Department and its non-departmental public bodies employ at each pay grade. [27790]

Tim Loughton: Information for the Department is set out in the following table:

Grade	*Number of staff*
Executive Assistant	6
Executive Officer	[1]—
Higher Executive Officer	0
Senior Executive Officer	[1]—
Grade 7	0
Grade 6	0
SCS	0

[1] Fewer than five

Information for the Department's non-departmental public bodies and their agency staff is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* units and *(b)* teams have been established in his Department since May 2010; and what the (i) name, (ii) purpose, (iii) staffing levels and (iv) annual running cost is of each such team or unit. [36494]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* Published information is available on the Department's website as part of Transparency Agenda.

Information on the departmental structure can be found at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/d/dfe%20organisation%20chart%20as%20of%2030%20september%202010.pdf

Information on team and business unit purpose can be found at:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/d/dfe%20senior%20posts%20dataset.csv

Annual running costs for each business directorate are set out in the following table:

Directorate	*Annual running costs (£)*
Education Standards	30,628,180
Infrastructure and Funding	19,286,694
Children, Young People and Families	32,230,619
Finance and Corporate Services	90,506,501
Internal Audit	2,043,000
Legal Advisers	3,857,000
Private Office	3,920,000

Education: Finance

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the level of entitlement funding was in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 for (i) England, (ii) Greater London, (iii) Islington and (iv) City and Islington College. [35776]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The entitlement funding in 2010/11 is shown in the following table.

	Entitlement funding (£ million)
England	899
Greater London	136
Islington	4.7
City and Islington College	4.2

The figure for Islington is the total of entitlement funding allocated to:

Highbury Grove School
Highbury Fields School
Central Foundation Boys' School
St Aloysius R.C. College
St Mary Magdalene Academy
City of London Academy Islington
City and Islington College
Springboard Islington Trust
Pre-School Learning Alliance
Jobwise Training

Funding for the entitlement is ending in 2011/12, but we have protected 30 guided learning hours for tutorials, which equates to £195 per student before uplifts for area costs, success rates and disadvantage are applied. Actual allocations of funding for providers for 2011/12 are still being calculated and will not be finalised until March.

Education: Financial Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the provision of financial education for young people; and if he will make a statement. [37408]

Mr Gibb: Finance education is currently part of non-statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education at Key Stages 1 to 4. All young people should benefit from high-quality PSHE, which includes financial capability. We announced, in the recent Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", our intention to conduct an internal review of PSHE education to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE.

The Department for Education is currently developing the remit for the internal PSHE review and further information will be available in due course.

Extended Schools

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what his Department's future plans are for extended schools; [32872]

(2) whether *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools will have a duty to provide extended hours schooling; [32873]

(3) how much his Department has allocated to fund extended schools in each year for the comprehensive spending review period; [32871]

(4) what funding his Department plans to allocate for extended hours schooling in *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [32874]

(5) how many school pupils attended *(a)* breakfast clubs, (b) after-school and homework clubs and *(c)* other forms of extended hours schooling in the latest period for which figures are available; and what evaluation his Department has made of the effects on academic attainment of the provision of such services. [32870]

Sarah Teather: In the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching", published in November 2010, we said that we will rely on schools to work together with voluntary, business and statutory agencies to create an environment where every child can learn, and can experience new and challenging opportunities through extended services. This includes academies and free schools.

The comprehensive spending review 2010 announced that the amounts of extended services funding currently provided through the Department's Standards Fund will form part of the overall schools revenue baseline from April 2011. There will be no specific amounts earmarked for extended services. Schools, including academies and free schools, will have freedom and flexibility to spend their budgets to support their pupils in the ways they judge best.

The Department does not collect data on how many school pupils attend (a) breakfast clubs, (b) after-school and homework clubs and (c) other forms of extended hours schooling. However, two recently published surveys give an indication of the proportion of children using various services.

The Department's Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents for 2009, published in 2010, entailed interviews with a sample of just over 6,700 parents with children aged under 15. This found that one-third of the sample of families used a breakfast or after-school club on a school site and 7% used a breakfast or after-school club off-site. The most common activity that children took part in was sport (60% of those using before or after school provision) and just under one-third took part in play/recreational activities, or other creative activities (31% and 28% respectively). 30% were undertaking study, homework, computer activities or learning languages. Some children were engaging in more than one type of activity.

Full details can be found at:

http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?Page Function =productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR054

The Department has published a fuller summary of evidence of the impact of extended services, which can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/popularquestions/schools/typesofschools/extendedschools/a005585/what-are-extended-services

Free Schools

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department has spent to date on supporting and promoting applications for free schools; [35053]

(2) whether his Department has allocated resources to groups who have made applications for free schools. [35052]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Department does not provide direct support, either financial or in the form of other resources, to free schools applicants until their proposal has been approved by Ministers to proceed to business case and plan stage.

At application stage, support to groups or individuals is provided by the New Schools Network (NSN), an independent charitable organisation that is funded by the Department. To date the cost of the grant provided to NSN has been £86,137.

Free Schools: Finance

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of introducing the first free schools by September 2011; [39247]

(2) whether any funding from the public purse has been allocated to support the capital requirements of free schools. [39248]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* All Free Schools opening in 2011 will receive revenue funding at a rate that is equivalent to maintained schools and academies. On capital funding up to £50 million has been set aside in 2010-11 to meet the capital needs of Free Schools. Beyond that, provision forms part of the overall spending review settlement for schools. Allocations for free schools have yet to be decided and will be dependent in part on the conclusion of the capital review which we intend to publish shortly.

Languages: Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of hours of modern foreign languages teaching there were in primary schools in each of the last three years. [37940]

Mr Gibb: Research published by the Department in July 2009 measured the proportion of primary schools teaching languages to at least some of their year groups at key stage 2 across the years 2006-08. Across the three years of the survey the proportions were:

2006: 70%;
2007: 84%;
2008: 92%.

In addition, the research showed the proportion of primary schools teaching languages to all four year groups in the key stage. These proportions were:

2006: 34%;
2007: 54%;
2008: 69%.

In most cases, this included all pupils within key stage 2.

No further research was commissioned by the Department in 2010 in this area.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of maintained schools teach *(a)* French, *(b)* German, *(c)* Latin, *(d)* Spanish and *(e)* any other language on a weekly basis. [37942]

Mr Gibb: Research published by the Department in July 2009 measured the proportions of the 92% of primary schools teaching languages in curriculum time as follows:

(a) French: 89%;
(b) German: 10%;
(c) Latin: a statistically insignificant number;
(d) Spanish: 25%;
(e) Other languages in curriculum time in appreciable numbers as follows:
Italian: 3%;
Chinese: 1%;
Japanese: 1%;
Urdu: <1%.

The Languages Trends survey 2010 published by CILT, the National Centre for Languages, in January 2011 showed that the proportion of maintained secondary schools teaching these languages in curriculum time was as follows:

(a) French: 98% at key stage 3 and 96% at key stage 4;
(b) German: 58% at key stage 3 and 60% at key stage 4;
(c) Latin: 5% across both key stages;
(d) Spanish: 63% at key stage 3 and 64% at key stage 4; and
(e) Other languages taught in curriculum time in an appreciable number of schools were:
Arabic: 1% at both key stage 3 and key stage 4;
Italian: 4% at key stage 3 and 6% at key stage 4;
Japanese: 1% at key stage 3 and 2% at key stage 4;
Mandarin: 3% at key stage 3 and 3% at key stage 4;
Russian: 0% at key stage 3 and 2% at key stage 4;
Urdu: 5% at key stage 3 and 6% at key stage 4.

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills: Inspections

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the cessation of Ofsted inspection for outstanding providers will apply to schools and colleges only or all settings under its remit. [39039]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 February 2011]*: The Government have announced proposals to free outstanding schools, colleges and private training organisations from routine inspection, as part of plans to introduce more proportionate and targeted inspection arrangements. Consideration is currently being given to the appropriateness of extending the principle of exemption from inspection to other areas of Ofsted's remit.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his internal review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education will include consideration of issues associated with training for teachers to deliver the subject. [36514]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* The Department for Education is currently developing the remit for the internal PSHE review and further information will be available in due course.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to review the hourly rate for early years funding in respect of the entitlement to 15 hours of free provision. [32072]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities, in consultation with their schools forums, decide how best to distribute three to 16 funding across their locality, and local authorities set their own local rates of funding to early years providers. We are reforming the distribution of funding by local authorities to ensure it is more efficient and transparent by requiring all authorities to introduce from April 2011 a locally agreed early years single funding formula (EYSFF). An analysis of the rates paid by the 71 local authorities that have already implemented their EYSFF is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/fundingreform/eysff_pathfinderprogramme/

We will be consulting on the future of school funding, including whether to introduce a national funding formula, in spring 2011. As part of that consultation, we will also cover funding for early years provision.

School Capital Funding

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Chair of the review of school capital funding receives a salary. [39662]

Mr Gibb: Sebastian James receives no salary or other remuneration for his work on the review of DfE capital.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what remuneration is received by the members of the committee overseeing the review of school capital funding. [39664]

Mr Gibb: No member of the steering group of the review of DfE capital receives any remuneration for work on the review.

Schools: Performance Standards

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangement his Department makes to take into account the performance of schools offering international qualifications in its published measures of school performance; and if he will include in school league tables for 2010-11 a measure of performance which takes into account international qualifications. [39846]

Mr Gibb: The school and college (key stage 5) performance tables have included achievements in the international baccalaureate alongside A-levels since 1994. International GCSE (iGCSE) achievements were also included in the 2010 secondary school (key stage 4) performance tables for the first time, and will continue to be included from now on. As with all other qualifications included in the tables, iGCSEs are first accredited by Ofqual. This gives schools, parents, pupils, universities and employers an independent guarantee of quality. As soon as iGCSEs are accredited, the predecessor qualifications can be included in the performance tables. Some iGCSEs were not accredited in time, so could not be included in the 2010 tables. However, we fully expect that the most popular iGCSEs will be included in the 2011 performance tables.

Schools: Sports

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce details of future (a) funding and (b) arrangements for school sport partnerships. [36340]

Tim Loughton: On 1 February the Department for Education wrote to partnerships setting out the grant awarded to each partnership in the 2010-11 financial year (September 2010 to August 2011 school year), and confirming the funding that partnerships will receive as their second and final grant payment in February 2011 to cover the period to August 2011.

The School Sport Partnership grant has been calculated on the basis of the cost of:

> Partnership Development Managers (PDMs); Assistant PDMs; School Sport Co-ordinators (SSCos); Primary Link Teachers (PLTs); and Further Education Sport Co-ordinators (FESCos), including pilot FESCos, for the autumn and spring terms (to 30 April 2011);
>
> PDMs; Assistant PDMs; SSCos; and FESCos, including pilot FESCos, for the summer term (to 31 August 2011). PLT training days are not funded in the summer term.

While the grant is calculated on the basis of posts, it was announced in October that partnerships should decide for themselves how the grant is spent for the purpose of providing physical education and sport for young people. We expect that it will be used to embed good practice from the previous Administration's PE and Sport Strategy and to introduce new sport competitions for more pupils as part of the coalition Government's School Games planned for spring 2012.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effect on competitive sport *(a)* within and *(b)* between schools of the end of his Department's funding for competition managers. [36870]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The Government believe that their new approach to encouraging competitive sport, including the changes to the funding of posts that were part of the previous Administration's strategy (such as competition managers), will result in more pupils playing more competitive sport. We can do much better than the two out of every five pupils that play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and the one in five pupils that plays regularly against other schools, reported last year. The national curriculum for physical education already requires schools to provide competitive sports for all pupils in maintained schools, aged five to 16, and we will make this clearer through the review of the national curriculum. We envisage schools and teachers taking greater control over what is taught in schools, innovating in how they teach it and developing new approaches. At the same time, we are encouraging the world of sport to improve and expand the competitions that are offered to schools, through the creation of a new School games.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the funding for school sport partnerships in Warrington for 2011-13. [37179]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced in October 2010 that the Department will not be funding school sport partnerships after this financial year, 2010-11. A final payment will be made to partnerships in Warrington at the end of February 2011, which covers the period to the end of the summer term. After that, it is up to the schools in Warrington whether they work in partnerships to organise physical education and competitive sports and how they fund this from their dedicated school grant. We envisage schools and teachers taking greater control over what is taught in PE, innovating in how they teach and developing new approaches. The Secretary of State also announced in December 2010 that the Department will provide £65 million in the new spending review period for secondary schools to release a PE teacher for a day a week to help local schools embed good practice and organise competitive sports. Secondary schools in Warrington will be eligible for a share of this funding. The Department is developing the arrangements for this and will notify schools in due course.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 164W, on schools: sports, what assessment he has made of the effects of working with sports clubs on the teaching of sport in schools. [37600]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 1 February 2011]:* The Department has not carried out any research studies into the effects of working with sports clubs on the teaching of sport in schools. Ofsted includes some positive observations in its 2009 report "Physical education in schools 2005/08", and the Department "PE and Sport Survey 2009/10" includes quantitative data on the number of school-club links. We believe, none the less, that links between schools and sports clubs are mutually beneficial. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has responsibility for promoting school-sport club links, and its Ministers intend to continue funding this through Sport England.

Science: Teachers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will develop an indicator for schools to report the proportion of their science and mathematics teachers with specialist knowledge relevant to the subjects they teach. [36857]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The Schools White Paper 2010, "The Importance of Teaching", sets out the Government's commitment to attract more of the best graduates of shortage subjects, including mathematics and science, into teaching. We will publish a strategy document for discussion early this year setting out our plans for funding initial teacher training from academic year 2012/13 to meet our policy aims.

Information on the level and subject of all teachers' post A-level qualifications and for secondary school teachers the curriculum subject they teach forms part of the new annual School Workforce Census. From April this year information from the new School Workforce Census will be published on the qualifications and deployment of secondary school teachers as part of the School Workforce Statistical First Release.

The data from the Census will enable the Department to provide annual analysis on the subject specialisms of the current teaching workforce, including the proportion of science and mathematics teachers with specialist knowledge relevant to the subjects they teach. This will enable us to monitor progress and ensure resources and initiatives are targeted appropriately.

Social Workers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to assist child protection social workers who experience stress due to their work. [40330]

Tim Loughton: Professor Munro is currently undertaking an independent review of child protection. She published her interim report on 1 February 2011. She has highlighted that if staff were well-supported in handling the emotional and cognitive aspects of the work more effectively, the problem of social workers leaving would be reduced. I look forward to receiving her final report and recommendations in April to which we will respond.

Teachers: Right of Search

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultation he has undertaken on his proposal to increase search powers for teachers. [37960]

Mr Gibb: In a statement to the House on 7 July I announced the Government's intention to introduce regulations to add to the list of items for which teachers can search and to introduce a more general search power in the next Education Bill.

Following the July behaviour announcement, we undertook an informal consultation on the items to be added by regulations. On 13 September officials wrote to five teacher professional organisations and Ofsted inviting their views on the proposed regulations—we received three responses.

Our intention to make regulations and to introduce a broader power also featured in the recent schools White Paper. In a letter to head teachers and chairs of governors on 24 November, the Secretary of State invited comment on the content of the White Paper.

Vocational Education

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to improve vocational education in schools. [39654]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. Professor Wolf will consider the organisation, funding, and target audience for vocational education, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods. She will report in the spring, and her findings will inform future developments to improve the standard of vocational education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Greater London

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people took up an engineering apprenticeship in *(a)* England, *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(c)* Enfield North constituency in 2009-10. [41387]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by young people (aged under 19) on an engineering framework in England, Enfield local authority and Enfield North parliamentary constituency in the 2009/10 academic year.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by young people (aged under 19) on the engineering framework in England, Enfield local authority and Enfield North constituency, 2009/10

Geography	*Apprenticeship starts*
Enfield North Parliamentary Constituency	—
Enfield Local Authority	—
England	7,800

Notes:
1. Figures for England are rounded to the nearest 100. Figures for parliamentary constituency and local authority are rounded to the nearest 100. '—' indicates a base value of less than five.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. The England figure includes those learners studying in England where the postcode is not known or is outside of England.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Redundancy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many apprentices *(a)* in each age group and *(b)* at each apprenticeship level have been made redundant since May 2010; [42254]

(2) what arrangements his Department has put in place to record the number of apprentices made redundant. [42255]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Since the beginning of the 2009/10 academic year, information on apprentices who leave the programme due to redundancy is submitted by colleges and training providers to the Skills Funding Agency in my Department, as part of the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

The following table shows the number of apprentices who left the programme due to redundancy, during the six month period May to October 2010 (that is, Quarter 4 2009/10 academic year (based on final data), and Quarter 1 2010/11 (based on provisional data).

	Intermediate apprenticeships	*Advanced/higher apprenticeships*	*All apprenticeships*
Under 19	130	210	340
19-24	50	70	120
25+	20	20	40
All ages	200	290	490

British Postal Museum and Archive

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to transfer responsibility for the British Postal Museum and Archive from Royal Mail to Post Office Ltd. [42205]

Mr Davey: The British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) is an independent trust. Royal Mail supports the BPMA through charitable contributions to the museum and through a service contract for the maintenance of the archive.

We have included provisions in the Postal Services Bill that would enable the Lord Chancellor to issue a direction that would have the effect of requiring Royal Mail to keep and maintain the archive that is currently placed on deposit with the BPMA in line with the Public Records Act 1958, regardless of Royal Mail's future ownership.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements are in place to ensure that Royal Mail has a responsibility in perpetuity to transfer *(a)* archives, *(b)* stamps and *(c)* other artefacts to the British Postal Museum and Archive. [42206]

Mr Davey: We have included provisions in the Postal Services Bill that would enable the Lord Chancellor to issue a direction that would have the effect of requiring

Royal Mail to keep and maintain the public records (which includes stamp issues) placed on deposit with the British Postal Museum and Archive in line with the Public Records Act 1958. The museum collection is a significant part of Royal Mail's heritage. We consider that the company will continue to ensure, regardless of ownership, that this heritage is preserved as it is an important part of the Royal Mail brand.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when Ministers in his Department last met representatives of the British Postal Museum and Archive; what matters were *(a)* discussed and *(b)* agreed at that meeting; and if he will make a statement. [42207]

Mr Davey: I met representatives of the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) when I visited the archive on 10 February this year. The Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my noble Friend Baroness Wilcox, accompanied me on the visit. The visit was primarily an introductory visit as neither of us had visited the BPMA before. We discussed the maintenance of the museum and archive in general. No agreements were reached.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the status is of the British Postal Museum and Archive's plans to develop a new base in Swindon; and if he will make a statement. [42208]

Mr Davey: The location of the British Museum and Archive is a matter for the BPMA and Royal Mail.

I understand that the move to Swindon is no longer going ahead but that other options are being considered.

Directors: Disqualification

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the updating of the Guidance Notes for the Completion of Statutory Report and Returns (Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986) to be completed. [42009]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service's website carries a web-based version of the guidance which is updated as and when required.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merit of producing an online version of the D1 report forms on the required conduct of directors under the provisions of the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986. [42010]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service has identified the submission of D1 reports as a service that could be moved online at an appropriate opportunity.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to work with *(a)* the insolvency profession and *(b)* others on the reform of procedures for the identification and investigation of potential misconduct on the part of company directors to ensure that the most serious cases can be easily identified. [42011]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service monitors and assesses business information and liaises with business and regulatory organisations to identify high profile and complex insolvencies, and developing trends in misconduct. It also liaises with insolvency practitioner office holders to assess, and plan for, the impact of large investigations on the Insolvency Service's resources. In addition, the Insolvency Service maintains an outreach programme with insolvency practitioners that provide education on the work of the Insolvency Service's disqualification procedures and reporting requirements.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merit of hypothecating funds from the levying of fines on directors disqualified under the provisions of the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 to fund the Insolvency Service's work on disqualification. [42012]

Mr Davey: There are no plans for a fine, or a levy, on directors disqualified under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA 1986).

As disqualification proceedings are public interest proceedings, there are objections to a fine or a levy being imposed as part of the public interest criteria especially as defendants in disqualification cases are able to take advantage of the undertaking regime. Most directors offer a disqualification undertaking (79% of directors were disqualified by undertaking in 2009-10).

In any event, disqualification proceedings are not criminal but civil proceedings initiated in the public interest. The primary purpose of disqualification is not punishment of directors but the protection of the public through incapacitation and deterrence.

Legal costs are sought against directors who are disqualified by court order, as in other civil proceedings.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the Insolvency Service uses to identify which D1 reports on the required conduct of directors under the provisions of the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 are most effective in ensuring that cases which may involve the most serious misconduct are investigated. [42013]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service applies public interest and evidential criteria to all D1 reports received from insolvency practitioners, ensuring that all cases which meet the criteria will be taken forward to investigation. This would ensure that the most serious, in terms of public interest, are investigated.

Export Credit Guarantees

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the difference in premiums and interest rates offered by *(a)* the Export Credits Guarantee Department and *(b)* private sector. [41846]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) carries out regular assessments of available private sector pricing with a view to not undercutting market rates.

Loans guaranteed by ECGD are provided and funded by commercial banks. The interest rates applicable to these loans are set by the funding banks by reference to prevailing market rates, except where transactions are supported by ECGD's Fixed Rate Export Finance scheme. Under this scheme (which will cease to be available for new business from 1 April 2011) the interest rate is fixed in accordance with an internationally agreed formula determined by the OECD and derived from Government bond yields.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there are any circumstances in which the Export Credits Guarantee Department requires exports to be backed with a sovereign counter guarantee from the importing country's government. [41847]

Mr Davey: Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) usually seeks a sovereign guarantee of payment that commits the full faith and credit of the sovereign Government to honour their debt obligations on an export transaction where the buyer is a Ministry or Department of the central government. Sovereign guarantees of payment may also be sought where the buyer is a publicly owned entity in circumstances when ECGD judges that such security is necessary and it is available. ECGD does not normally seek sovereign guarantees of payment for export transactions involving private buyers or where it takes project risk involving limited recourse financing structures.

Further Education: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was provided for further education in the academic year 2009-10. [43003]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Government allocate funding for further education on a financial year basis. Further Education (FE)and Skills provision for learners aged 16-18 years is funded by the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills funds provision for learners aged 19+ years. The 2009/10 academic year straddles both the 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years. The allocations for each of those financial years are given as follows.

The actual spend for the 2009-10 financial year on delivering teaching and learning for those aged 16-18 in FE colleges and sixth form colleges was £3.794 billion and £0.688 billion for this apprenticeships for this age group. For 2010-11 planned spend is £4.001 billion on provision for those aged 16-18 in FE college and sixth form colleges and further £0.780 billion on apprenticeships. The figures were published by Young Person's Learning Agency's (YPLA) in its funding statement[1] on 20 December 2010 and exclude funding used to support learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

For the 2009-10 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills stated in its Skills Investment Strategy[2] published on 16 November 2009 that planned spend on adult learner responsive provision for those aged 19+ would be £1.753 billion and £0.389 billion on apprenticeships. As outlined in the grant letter[3] to the Skills Funding Agency 17 June 2010 in the 2010-11 financial year that planned adult learner responsive budget would be £1.799 billion and the planned adult apprenticeships budget would be £0.548 billion.

[1] YPLA funding statement published in December 2010

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/16-19_Funding_Statement.pdf

[2] BIS Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedd/publications/s/skills-investment-strategy.pdf

[3] Grant letter to the Skills Funding Agency

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/s/10-1013-sfa-funding-letter-2010-11.pdf

Higher education: Admissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people entered *(a)* further education and *(b)* higher education in the last 12 months. [43001]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Near-final data show that in 2009/10 academic year, there were 1,094,800 learners aged under 19 participating in further education (FE). This includes participation in general FE colleges, sixth forms colleges, special colleges and learners participating on apprenticeship programmes. This does not include learners participating in school sixth forms. This participation figure includes learners starting a course in 2009/10 and learners who started a course in a previous academic year and are continuing with their learning in 2009/10.

For higher education, the definition of "young" differs for undergraduate and postgraduate entrants. For undergraduates, young refers to those aged under 21, and for postgraduates, those aged under 25. The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) which cover the 2009/10 academic year, show there were 333,225 young (aged under 21) undergraduate entrants to English Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and 108,724 young (aged under 25) postgraduate entrants to English HEIs.

Post Offices

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's document, Securing the Future of the Post Office in the Digital Age, in how many post offices he expects the sub-postmaster to lose their basic salary and be paid on commission for each transaction. [42819]

Mr Davey: The Department's document 'Securing the Future of the Post Office in the Digital Age indicated that over the next four years around 2,000 small sub-post offices will convert to the Post Office local model which has lower operating costs for both the retailer and Post Office Ltd. As sub-postmasters are not employees of Post Office Ltd they are not paid a salary but are remunerated in line with their contractual terms and conditions as agreed with the National Federation of SubPostmasters.

Postal Boxes: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the change was in the cost of maintaining Royal Mail post office boxes between 2010 and 2011; and what the reason was for the change. [42717]

Mr Davey: The maintenance of its post boxes is an operational matter for Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Sales Methods

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of regulations in reducing the incidence of aggressive sales techniques. [41843]

Mr Davey: The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 prohibit traders from engaging in aggressive practices which through the use of harassment, coercion or undue influence distort consumers' decisions in relation to products. These prohibitions are still relatively new and it would therefore be premature to conduct an assessment of how effective they have been in reducing the incidence of aggressive sales techniques.

The Government have also asked the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission to examine how private law might be reformed to provide clearer, simpler routes to redress for consumers who have suffered misleading or aggressive practices. Clearer, simpler private law will complement the public regulation of unfair commercial practices, deterring wrongful conduct.

Skills Funding Agency: Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts the Skills Funding Agency awarded to *(a)* small and medium-sized and *(b)* large enterprises in the most recent six month period for which figures are available. [42158]

Mr Prisk: We do not hold this information centrally.

I have asked the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency to write to the hon. Lady providing the details of the number of contracts awarded to small, medium and large enterprises.

Tribunals Service: Competition Appeals Tribunal

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the transfer of the Competition Appeals Tribunal to the Tribunals Service. [42987]

Mr Davey: The transfer of sponsorship of the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to the Tribunals Service is dependant on the abolition of the Competition Service which currently provides administrative support to the CAT.

A working party, comprising of officials from BIS, the Tribunals Service, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Competition Service have been examining the case for abolition of the Competition Service and will make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Secretary of State for Justice shortly.

If the Competition Service is not abolished the CAT sponsorship will remain with BIS.

Tribunals Service: Copyright Tribunal

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the transfer of the Copyright Tribunal to the Tribunals Service. [42986]

Mr Davey: The merger of the Copyright Tribunal with the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Tribunals Service was announced in October 2010, subject to agreement of the details with the MoJ. Discussions continue with the MoJ on precisely where the Copyright Tribunal would be situated within the Tribunals Service.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities: Urban Areas

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W, on departmental responsibilities: urban areas, on what date he plans to announce the appointment of Ministers with responsibility for cities in England. [41417]

The Prime Minister: An announcement will be made shortly.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister if he will assess the level of public appetite to participate in the big society initiative at times of reductions in public expenditure. [42122]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 February 2011 following my speech on the big society. A transcript of this can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/02/pms-speech-on-big-society-60563

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42618]

Mr Paterson: The Department adheres to each of the principles in the Principles of Good Employment Practice where applicable.

WALES

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of her Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42616]

Mr David Jones: The Principles of Good Employment relate to best practice for how contractors employ staff. The Wales Office does not procure contractors itself. The Office uses the Ministry of Justice's procurement systems and contractual arrangements.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has for prevention of mesothelioma cases caused by exposure to asbestos. [41891]

Chris Grayling: The prevention of exposure to asbestos at work is and will continue to be a priority for HSE. The majority of work with asbestos can only be carried out by contractors licensed by HSE.

In addition, when visiting employers as part of any relevant intervention, HSE visiting staff actively explore compliance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006, with non-domestic building owners and occupiers who have a duty to manage any asbestos in their premises.

HSE also works closely with stakeholders and partners to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos and encourage trades people to access training.

Carer's Allowance

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the take-up of carer's allowance by those who are eligible; and if he will make a statement. [42213]

Maria Miller: The Department does not have an estimate of the take-up of carer's allowance. A feasibility study to assess if the Department can provide an estimate for the take-up of carer's allowance has been completed "(The take-up of carer's allowance: A feasibility study Working Paper no. 84":

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP84.pdf

The study concluded that while it may be possible to provide an estimate of take-up, no approach is without measurement problems and would not provide an estimate for the entire carer's allowance population.

Child Support Agency

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date he expects the Child Support Agency Recovery Unit to return the papers relating to the two children of Samantha Docherty to the office handling the case. [41530]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the right hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, by what date he expects the Child Support Agency Recovery Unit to return the papers relating to the two children of Samantha Docherty to the office handling the case. [41530]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Children: Maintenance

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adoptive parents are making child support payments to support children who are *(a)* no longer in their care and *(b)* in the care of the child's birth parents. [42710]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adoptive parents are making Child Support Agency payments to support children who are (a) no longer in their care and (b) in the care of the child's birth parents. [42710]

The Child Support Agency is not able to provide the figures requested because it only records that a person is a non-resident parent. It does not record whether they are adoptive parents or not. Child support legislation establishes that, where a child is adopted, responsibility for the child, should they qualify for child maintenance, rests with the adoptive parent (section 26(2) of the Child Support Act 1991). The liability of a biological parent to maintain her/his child ends on adoption and the parent by adoption becomes the only person liable to maintain the child. This approach supports the principle expressed in the Adoption and Children Act 2002, namely that someone who is adopted should be treated in law as the natural born child of the person who has adopted them.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Christmas Bonus

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received the £10 Christmas bonus in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [41551]

Steve Webb: There were 15.4 million individuals who received the £10 Christmas bonus in 2009-10. This is the most recent 12 months for which figures are available.

Notes:

1. This information is from the DWP statistical and accounting data.

2. Caseloads for most benefits and benefit expenditure data can be found at the following URL:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_budget2010.xls

Disability Living Allowance

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people awarded mobility allowance for life will continue to receive the allowance following implementation of his proposed reform of disability living allowance. [41970]

Maria Miller: Consultation on the reform of disability living allowance with the key proposal of a new benefit, to be known as personal independence payment, concluded on 18 February. The Welfare Reform Bill introducing the legislative changes necessary was introduced to the House on 16 February.

The intention is that all working age recipients of disability living allowance, whether in receipt of an indefinite or a fixed award, will be reassessed under the conditions of entitlement to personal independence payment from 2013 to establish entitlement.

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those eligible to claim the lowest rate of disability living allowance will be eligible for support under the personal independence payment scheme. [42736]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance will be replaced by personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. From 2013/14 working-age individuals in receipt of DLA will be reassessed against the new eligibility criteria for personal independence payment.

We are finalising the design of personal independence payment. The assessment will look at people as individuals, rather than labelling them as part of a group, or with a particular health condition or impairment. I am, therefore, unable to predict the outcome of the assessment and precisely which individuals will see a change in entitlement.

Disability Living Allowance: Clwyd

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Clwyd South constituency claim the lowest rate of disability living allowance. [42737]

Maria Miller: People claim disability living allowance rather than a specific rate. The numbers entitled to each rate, or combination of rates, is contained in the following table.

Disability living allowance recipients in Clwyd South constituency: May 2010

All entitled cases	*Number of claimants*
Higher care and higher mobility	1010
Higher care and lower mobility	350
Higher care only	60
Middle care and higher mobility	710
Middle care and lower mobility	650
Middle care only	170
Lower care and higher mobility	720
Lower care and lower mobility	270
Lower care only	430
Higher mobility only	840
Lower mobility only	80
Total	5290

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. All entitled cases figures include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Housing Benefit

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects on labour mobility of his proposed changes to housing benefit. [36096]

Steve Webb: The Department is in the process of a procurement exercise with leading research organisations for the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of the housing benefit measures. The precise form of the evaluation will depend upon the outcome of negotiations with the successful contractor, but we anticipate that it will include fieldwork examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Housing Benefit: Fife

Mr Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* elderly people and *(b)* people of working age were in receipt of housing benefit in the Fife local authority area in each of the last three years. [37455]

Steve Webb: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Housing benefit recipients by age: Great Britain and Fife local authority

	All HB recipients	*All aged under 65*	*All aged 65 and over*
October 2010			
All	4,789,490	3,511,880	1,277,440
Fife LA	30,730	22,370	8,360
October 2009			
All	4,568,730	3,292,840	1,275,690
Fife LA	29,690	21,180	8,500
November 2008			
All	4,171,940	2,896,700	1,271,490
Fife LA	27,350	18,020	9,330

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:
(a) the recipient if they are single, or
(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
6. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and October 2010 is the most recent available.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Housing Benefit: Glasgow

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount of housing benefit paid for each type of tenure in *(a)* the City of Glasgow local authority area and *(b)* Glasgow South West constituency was in the latest period for which figures are available. [41477]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available for Glasgow South West parliamentary constituency.

At present, geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data: this will include parliamentary constituencies.

The data we do have for the city of Glasgow local authority are shown in the following table.

Housing benefit by tenure in city of Glasgow local authority, October 2010

	Caseload	Average weekly amount (£)
All tenants	90,450	70.41
Local authority tenant	1,840	276.04
Registered social landlord tenant	74,540	59.80
Private regulated tenant	290	65.22
Private deregulated tenant (LHA)	10,250	104.77
Private deregulated tenant (non-LHA)	3,390	92.72

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
5. In March 2003, Glasgow transferred all its council housing stock to Glasgow housing association. The caseload and average weekly amounts shown in the table as 'local authority tenants' are actually non-housing revenue account properties.
6. Non-housing revenue account (HRA) rent rebate cases applies where a local housing authority secures accommodation from a private landlord and uses the accommodation as temporary accommodation to discharge its functions under the homelessness legislation, part 7 of the Housing Act 1996. This includes accommodation secured by the local authority (LA) under licence, by a short-term lease, or bed-and-breakfast accommodation.
7. Local housing allowance tenants (LHA) may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
8. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
9. The total includes cases where the tenure type is recorded as unknown.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Housing Benefit: Payments

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of paying housing benefit directly to landlords. [41797]

Steve Webb: We continue to support the principle that tenants in the private rented sector should be responsible for managing their rental payments rather than having the choice of having it paid to their landlord.

Our two-year review of the operation of the local housing allowance, which was published on 10 February, established that in over 80% of cases benefit is being paid to the tenant and in a high proportion of these cases rent payments were made by automated credit transfer. The evidence also suggests that the majority of tenants take the responsibility for paying their rent very seriously.

There are safeguards in place so that housing benefit can be paid to the landlord if the tenant is unable or unlikely to pay their rent. Benefit is also paid direct to the landlord if the tenant is in arrears by eight weeks' rent.

From April 2011 we are widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord only if it would help the customer secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent. We will work closely with local authorities to ensure this provision is used in very specific circumstances where landlords are reducing rents to a level that is affordable for customers.

We will be considering and consulting on arrangements for the payment of benefit in the context of the universal credit.

Incapacity Benefit

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of incapacity benefit claimants who will be found fit for work but will not qualify for any payments when assessed for means-tested jobseeker's allowance in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [41121]

Chris Grayling: We are not able to provide figures for each year of the spending review period.

However, it is estimated that around 1.5 million existing incapacity benefits customers will go through the reassessment process by 2014. Of these, approximately 23% are expected to be assessed as fit for work following their work capability assessment and moved off incapacity benefits. Around half are expected to go on to be eligible for either income-based or contributory jobseeker's allowance in each year of the reassessment process. An exact split is not available.

People currently going through the reassessment process receiving contributory incapacity benefit are likely to qualify for contributory jobseeker's allowance if they are assessed as fit for work. Likewise anyone previously receiving income support on the grounds of incapacity and assessed as fit for work are likely to be eligible for income-based jobseeker's allowance.

Independent Living Fund

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received payments from the Independent Living Fund in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [41463]

Maria Miller: In the period 1 February 2010 to 31 January 2011 22,358 people in the UK received at least one payment from the ILF.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget he plans to allocate to the Independent Living Fund for each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [41464]

Maria Miller: The Department's detailed budgets, including that of the ILF for 2011-12 and the rest of the SR10 period, have not yet been finalised.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fraud

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people normally resident in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency were prosecuted for offences relating to fraudulent claims for jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. [41839]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available, as to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Prosecutions in Scotland are the responsibility of the Procurator Fiscal, and data are not collated centrally.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Housing Benefit

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions his Department has made for business planning purposes in respect of the likely number and proportion of people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance who will be affected by the 10 per cent. sanction on housing benefit as a result of not finding work after 12 months. [41985]

Chris Grayling: We have decided not to pursue this measure.

Lorries: Safety

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive provides to *(a)* the road haulage industry and *(b)* the passenger transport industry on the increased risk of road traffic accidents among drivers suffering from obstructive sleep apnoea. [41969]

Chris Grayling: The HSE does not provide guidance to the road haulage industry or the passenger transport industry on the increased risk of road traffic accidents to drivers suffering from obstructive sleep apnoea.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), an agency of the Department for Transport, leads on matters relating to fitness to drive. Full details about health conditions that could affect a person's ability to drive are set out on the Directgov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/MedicalRulesForDrivers/MedicalA-Z/index.htm

HSE works with other organisations and regulators, as appropriate, to help improve the management of work related health and safety issues. HSE has collaborated with the Department for Transport to produce guidance to help companies whose staff drive for work. This guidance 'Driving at Work - Managing Work Related Road Risk' (INDG382) makes specific reference to the need for employers to be satisfied that their drivers are sufficiently fit and healthy to drive safely and not put others at risk.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1190W, on housing benefit: mortgages, what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the interest rate used to calculate Support for Mortgage Interest Payments on the number of people entitled to passported benefits. [34006]

Steve Webb: No assessment on the change to the number of claimants entitled to passported benefits as a result of the SIR change has been made.

Social Security Benefits: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in each ward in the London Borough of Bexley claimed *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* housing benefit in each of the last 12 months. [41397]

Steve Webb: The information requested in relation to housing benefit is not available at ward level.

Notes:

1. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

2. Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb

3. At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data.

The information we have for jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Jobseeker's allowance claimants by each ward in the London borough of Bexley: each month February 2010 to January 2011

	2010											2011
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Barnehurst	187	194	183	177	170	165	172	162	173	149	148	169
Belvedere	331	332	333	316	312	291	293	307	318	301	304	315
Blackfen and Lamorbey	173	151	156	132	126	132	148	140	137	131	118	120
Blendon and Penhill	160	148	151	133	118	124	129	123	120	112	106	102
Brampton	142	138	142	121	113	125	130	120	115	91	102	117
Christchurch	213	204	182	188	188	173	163	165	153	144	152	148
Colyers	341	350	337	332	332	328	327	344	304	288	277	304

Table 1: Jobseeker's allowance claimants by each ward in the London borough of Bexley: each month February 2010 to January 2011

	2010											*2011*
	February	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*
Cray Meadows	241	253	245	244	229	206	209	220	201	203	204	218
Crayford	304	295	279	261	262	263	250	250	239	232	243	266
Danson Park	199	195	168	156	153	162	168	161	148	148	134	151
East Wickham	220	223	209	193	183	185	168	180	190	180	177	176
Erith	356	355	343	331	324	329	309	313	296	304	312	341
Falconwood and Welling	195	185	176	173	175	149	158	159	154	149	160	156
Lesnes Abbey	278	275	267	250	236	228	230	244	225	224	237	240
Longlands	139	137	125	118	113	123	140	138	126	119	123	124
North End	419	431	432	429	405	391	408	416	418	412	401	428
Northumberland Heath	199	195	186	173	170	158	153	166	162	163	169	161
Sidcup	153	141	139	126	126	113	119	133	127	127	108	108
St Mary's	121	113	120	116	114	112	116	125	120	108	113	110
St Michael's	203	201	211	193	185	189	188	195	176	155	158	161
Thamesmead East	428	423	401	393	393	406	423	432	387	397	430	422

Notes:
1. JSA figures are unrounded as this is the approved convention followed by ONS for this particular data source.
2. Jobseeker's allowance data are published at
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Ward level figures are allocated by 2009 ward boundaries.
4. Jobseeker's allowance figures are available monthly, January 2011 are the latest data currently available.

Source:
Jobseeker's allowance: Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).

Table 2: Disability living allowance claimants by each ward in the London borough of Bexley: each quarter August 2009 to May 2010

	August 2009	*November 2009*	*February 2010*	*May 2010*
Barnehurst	375	385	395	395
Belvedere	525	525	540	555
Blackfen and Lamorbey	320	325	325	325
Blendon and Penhill	300	310	315	320
Brampton	370	380	375	375
Christchurch	400	395	405	400
Colyers	575	585	595	600
Cray Meadows	565	570	590	590
Crayford	565	585	595	610
Danson Park	365	365	380	380
East Wickham	475	485	490	495
Erith	520	540	565	565
Falconwood and Welling	310	315	320	325
Lesnes Abbey	510	535	540	545
Longlands	330	340	345	345
North End	705	715	725	755
Northumberland Heath	460	470	470	460
Sidcup	290	300	300	305
St Mary's	280	285	285	295
St Michael's	420	430	430	435
Thamesmead East	545	550	555	550

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. These data are published at
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
4. Disability living allowance is produced quarterly with May 2010 being the latest data.
5. Ward level figures are allocated by 2003 ward boundaries.

Source:
Disability living allowance: DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Unemployment: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in *(a)* Motherwell and Wishaw constituency and *(b)* Scotland. [41841]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number and proportion of workless households in (a) Motherwell and Wishaw and (b) Scotland (41841).

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The latest data currently available is for 2009. The attached table shows estimates for Motherwell and Wishaw constituency, and Scotland.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table 1: Number of workless households[1] in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency, and Scotland

Thousands

January-December 2009	*Estimate*	*Lower bound*[2]	*Upper bound*[2]
Motherwell and Wishaw	9	6	11
Scotland	369	355	384

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16-64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.

[2] 95% confidence interval.

Unemployment: Young People

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to address trends in youth unemployment in former coalmining areas. [41481]

Chris Grayling: This Government are determined to deal with the legacy of youth unemployment. In all parts of the country our approach is to ensure that young unemployed people get the personalised help they need to find sustainable employment. Jobcentre Plus local offices will have more control to allow them to deliver in a way that is more responsive to local needs. Work Programme providers will be free to design support based on the needs of individuals and target the right support at the right time. Both Jobcentre Plus and Work Programme providers will work with local public, private, and third sector organisations where this delivers the best job outcomes for individuals.

Universal Credit

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his proposals for universal credit will take of the payment of benefits in respect of housing costs in circumstances where a new partner begins to live with a recipient. [42820]

Chris Grayling: Claims for universal credit will be made on the basis of households rather than individuals. Where a new partner begins to live with a recipient, both members of the couple will be required to claim universal credit. An appropriate amount will be added to the universal credit award to help meet the cost of rent or mortgage interest.

HEALTH

Abortion

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Heywood and Middleton of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 159W, on abortion: finance, what authority there is in legislation for clinics and hospitals providing abortions to offer women *(a)* impartial advice, including written information, *(b)* medical assessments and *(c)* decision-making support including counselling. [42769]

Anne Milton: All independent sector abortion providers must register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), who are the health and social care regulators for England, in order to operate. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, every health and social care provider is required to meet the requirements set out in the guidance about compliance, "Essential standards of quality and safety". A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library. Service providers, including abortion providers, must have suitable arrangements in place for obtaining and acting in accordance with, the consent of service users in relation to their care and treatment. More specifically, the "Essential standards of quality and safety", which underpins the Health and Social Care Act 2008, is clear that:

> The risks, benefits and alternative options are provided in a way that the person seeking treatment can understand. The person should also be given time to think about their decisions and be given information on how to change any decisions about treatment that have already been agreed;
>
> Service providers must take steps to ensure that women are protected against the risks of receiving treatment, to include medical assessment, which is inappropriate or unsafe. Any treatment provided should reflect guidance issued by the appropriate expert body such as that published by The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on the "Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, which governs good practice on abortion provision; and
>
> The right of the person to have an advocate to assist them in understanding their options, as part of the decision making process, should be respected. This advocate could include the use of a counsellor.

In the national health service, hospitals are accountable through clinical governance arrangements for continuously improving the quality of their services and safeguarding high standards of care.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the effects of trends in youth unemployment on future levels of alcohol dependency. [42120]

Anne Milton: For some people unemployment can be a factor in alcohol misuse, which if sustained over a number of years, can help to develop alcohol dependence.

The Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions collaborate closely at both ministerial and official level. Both Departments are jointly responsible for delivering the recovery ambition set out in the Government's Drug Strategy, to help individuals, who need treatment, to overcome their dependence, to find employment and to integrate in society.

Baby Care Units

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what neonatal units there are in each strategic health authority area; how many beds each unit has; and what the address of each unit is. [41986]

Anne Milton: Information is not collected by the Department in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of open neonatal cots for the period of the last Thursday in the month of January 2011.

Neonatal critical care cots (beds): Strategic health authority level data

Name	*Open*
North East Strategic Health Authority	
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	8
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	4
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	16
North West Strategic Health Authority	
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	18
Countess Of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3
East Cheshire NHS Trust	1
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	6
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	47
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	7
Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	4
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	2
Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	9
University Hospital Of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	4
University Hospitals Of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust	2
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	2
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust	3
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	6
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	38
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	42
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	2
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	5
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	26
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	15
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3
University Hospitals Of Leicester NHS Trust	36
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	
Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust	10
Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
Heart Of England NHS Foundation Trust	5
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	1
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	10
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	6
The Dudley Group Of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	18
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	20
University Hospital Of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	10
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	27
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	2
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	6
East of England Strategic Health Authority	
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	3
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41
Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust	3
Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	5
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	10
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	7
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	19
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	1
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	6
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	1
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	12
London Strategic Health Authority	
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	11
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	4
Barts and The London NHS Trust	24
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	34
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	4
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	4
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	15
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	10
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	30
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	27
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	6
Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust	6

Neonatal critical care cots (beds): Strategic health authority level data

Name	*Open*
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	2
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	3
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	5
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	2
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	3
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	39
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	8
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	23
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	4
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	4
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	23
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust	10
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	0
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	10
Medway PCT	0
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	12
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	4
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	30
South Central Strategic Health Authority	
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	3
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	7
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	2
Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	11
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	12
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	4
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	36
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	2
South West Strategic Health Authority	
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8
North Bristol NHS Trust	34
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	6
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	7
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	7
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	12
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	7
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	4
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	4
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	25

Note:
Published 18 February 2011
Source:
Unify2 data collection—Msitreps

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children of each age group were admitted to neonatal units in each strategic health authority area in each of the last two years. [41987]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table shows numbers of babies receiving neonatal care by neonatal network provider:

Network provider	*2008*	*2009*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	2,589	2,598
Cheshire and Merseyside	3,728	2,027
Essex	1,959	1,678
Greater Manchester	3,393	2,919
Kent	2,166	2,029
Lancashire and South Cumbria	1,467	1,247
London—North Central	3,659	2,965
London—North East	3,376	2,456
London—North West	2,054	1,857
London—South East	2,990	2,488
London—South West	2,493	2,124
Midlands—Central	1,295	1,464
Midlands—South West	1,097	3,076
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge	4,316	3,758
North Trent	1,483	2,420
Northern	1,688	2,269
Peninsula—South West	2,729	2,371
South Central (North)	2,835	2,411
South Central (South)	3,330	2,855
Staffs, Shropshire and Black Country	1,736	1,311
Surrey and Sussex	3,361	3,104
Trent	2,427	1,952
Western	2,070	4,324
Yorkshire	485	1,500
Total	58,726	57,203

Source:
National Neonatal Audit Programme Reports, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Disability Living Allowance

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the methods of evaluating for eligibility for disability living allowance persons diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis. [42440]

Paul Burstow: I have had several discussions with the Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), who has responsibility for disabled people, on the issue of disability living allowance (DLA). Following the Westminster Hall debate of 2 February 2011, I passed the specific concerns raised by the hon. Member for Redcar (Ian Swales) about DLA for those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis to the Minister.

CJD

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of measures taken by the *(a)* blood service and *(b)* NHS, excluding the blood service, to reduce the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease by blood or blood products since 1998. [41549]

Anne Milton: Since 1998 a number of measures have been introduced by the United Kingdom blood services to reduce the risk of transfusion transmitted variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). These measures include the introduction of leucodepletion (the removal of white blood cells), the importation of fresh frozen plasma for children and the deferral from donation of transfusion recipients. In addition, the use of plasma from UK donors for fractionation purposes has ceased.

For national health service blood and transplant the highest costs associated with these measures are the estimated loss of income from the sale of plasma from UK blood donors (£325 million) and the introduction of leucodepletion (£182 million). Further measures bring the estimated total cost to £540 million since 1998, with an estimated current annual cost of approximately £40 million.

There is no separate assessment of such costs for the NHS outside the blood service. However, synthetic (recombinant) clotting factor for the treatment of bleeding disorders, such as haemophilia, has been provided to all patients for whom it is suitable since 2005, and to those under the age of 16 since 1998, at a current annual cost of approximately £200 million.

Dentistry

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 607W, on dentistry, on what timetable the Government will explore with the General Dental Council the potential encouragement of training institutions to look again at the development of courses for dental care professionals. [42177]

Mr Simon Burns: We understand that the chief dental officer will be meeting the chief executive/registrar of the General Dental Council on 2 March and will ask for this matter to be included on the agenda for the meeting.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42893]

Paul Burstow: The information requested in respect of the Department and its arm's length bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The provision of interpretation and translation services by national health service bodies is a matter for local determination. Such bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010. [42300]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 31 May 2010, 160 actual staff, that is, 154 full-time equivalent staff have left the Department.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42381]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 31 January 2011, the number of actual civil servants working for the Department was 2,650. The full-time equivalent number of staff was 2,563.52.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42397]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 31 May 2010, 2,657 actual staff members were employed by the Department. The full-time equivalent number of that staff complement was 2,576.42.

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetes prevention units he has visited since 12 May 2010. [42175]

Paul Burstow: The Department is committed to the prevention of Type 2 diabetes. The NHS Health Check programme was specifically designed to help people between the ages of 40 and 74 reduce their risk of diabetes, as well as heart disease, stroke and kidney disease. The Secretary of State for Health visited a health fair in Birmingham last year where he experienced an innovative approach to the delivery of this programme.

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People", sets out the Government's strategy for improving public health and reducing the risk factors associated with developing conditions such as Type 2 diabetes. Lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, the harmful use of alcohol, drug misuse, poor diet and nutrition, being overweight and physical inactivity are acknowledged risk factors for a number of chronic diseases and conditions including Type 2 diabetes.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 634-35W, on doctors: foreign workers, whether the General Medical Council submitted to his Department a copy of the legal advice it had received in respect of the registration of EU-qualified, non-UK doctors. [41910]

Anne Milton: We can confirm that the General Medical Council has shared its advice on what scope there may be for undertaking checks on the language knowledge of European economic area migrant doctors at the point of registration under Directive 2005/36/EC with the Department.

General Practitioners: Clacton

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of his proposals for NHS reform on GP services in Jaywick and West Clacton; [42294]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that standards of GP services in Jaywick and West Clacton will be monitored. [42864]

Mr Simon Burns: Each primary care trust (PCT) is responsible for ensuring the standards of services provided to patients under their existing contractual arrangements. From April 2012, it is proposed that all providers of primary medical care services will be required to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). In order to be registered, providers have to meet registration requirements, which set essential levels of safety and quality in the provision of care to patients. The CQC has a range of enforcement powers that it can use where providers do not meet the registration requirements.

Under the Health and Social Care Bill currently being considered by Parliament, it is proposed that the NHS Commissioning Board will replace PCTs and become directly responsible for commissioning general practitioner (GP) services from contractors and that this will occur in April 2013. The Bill also proposes to make the NHS Commissioning Board responsible for securing continuous improvements to the quality of the services provided to patients by national health service bodies, including GP practices and therefore the board will directly monitor the standard of care and services provided by all primary medical care providers. Alongside this it is proposed that commissioning consortia must assist and support the board in securing continuous improvements in the quality of primary medical services with a view to ensuring that the board and the commissioning consortia will work together to monitor the quality of the services provided by all primary medical service providers.

Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has conducted research on the causes of malaise, including sleeplessness, headaches and indigestion. [42124]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds research on many diseases and conditions of which malaise can be a symptom.

Details of studies supported through the NIHR clinical research network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search/

Records of individual national health service supported research projects collected up to September 2007 are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

Health Services

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effects of implementation of his proposals to disband specialised commissioning groups on the work undertaken by the South West Specialised Commissioning Group and South West Neuromuscular Network. [42073]

Paul Burstow: Subject to parliamentary approval, the National Health Service Commissioning Board will take responsibility for the commissioning of specialised services for people with rare conditions from April 2012, including those currently commissioned by the 10 Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs).

The existing work programme for SCGs includes action to improve neuromuscular services.

Health Services: Older People

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what response he plans to make to the report of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman on care for elderly people published on 15 February 2011; [42835]

(2) what steps he plans to take to prevent unacceptable standards of care from being provided to elderly patients in some NHS hospitals as identified in the report of the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman of 15 February 2011. [42836]

Paul Burstow: We have asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to implement a series of unannounced inspections led by experienced senior nurses, including matrons, who know what is and what is not good care. The findings of the inspections will be published.

On 15 February, the chief executive of the national health service and the National Clinical Director for Older People wrote to all NHS Boards highlighting the Ombudsman's report and urging them to assure themselves that these events are not happening in their own organisations.

The coalition Government are determined to make the NHS more patient-centred and more responsive to the people it serves. We are focusing on achieving outcomes that are among the best in the world and putting patient safety at the heart of everything the NHS does. That's why the Health Bill will create local HealthWatch organisations to give patients more power to ensure their feedback and complaints are heard and to hold their local services to account. We will be publishing a

White Paper on Adult Social Care which will also focus on quality outcomes and delivering care with dignity, respect and compassion.

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process would be required to bring into use dual purpose vaccinations against genital warts and cervical cancer in place of single purpose vaccination. [42053]

Anne Milton: The purpose of the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme is to protect against cervical cancer. There are two HPV vaccines licensed in the United Kingdom—Cervarix® and Gardasil®. Both provide protection against HPV strains 16 and 18 that cause over 70% of cervical cancers in the UK.

Efficacy trials of Cervarix published in *The Lancet* on 7 July 2009 show that as well as protecting against HPV type 16 and 18 that cause around 70% of cervical cancer, Cervarix also provides cross-protection against HPV types 31, 33 and 45 which are the three most common cancer-causing virus types beyond 16 and 18. *The Lancet* suggests that this could translate into approximately 11-16% extra protection against cervical cancer[1].

Gardasil also protects against HPV strains 6 and 11 that can cause genital warts.

Following a tendering process in 2008, a three-year contract was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline for Cervarix® in 2008. This contract is due to come to an end this year and the process for retendering the contract has begun.

In order to select which vaccine to purchase and use, the Department follows European Union procurement legislation and uses a rigorous process for the selection. The tender documents will be finalised soon and an advert will be placed across Europe to invite tenders from vaccine manufacturers.

[1] Paavonen J, Naud P, Salmeron J et al. (2009) Efficacy of human papillomavirus (HPV)-16/18 AS04-adjuvanted vaccine against cervical infection and precancer caused by oncogenic HPV types (PATRICIA): final analysis of a double-blind, randomised study in young women. Lancet 374(9686): 301-14.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries whose health services use dual purpose vaccines against genital warts and cervical cancer. [42071]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold information on the number of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries whose health services use Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines that offer protection against both genital warts and cervical cancer.

Information from the World Health Organization and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control shows that the following countries use HPV vaccines:

Lesotho, Uganda, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia, United States of America, Iraq, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bhutan, Australia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau.

Of these countries, France, Ireland and Australia are known to preferentially use the vaccine that offers protection against both genital warts and cervical cancer. However, this may not be an exhaustive list.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of providing *(a)* single purpose and *(b)* dual purpose vaccination products for cervical cancer; [42854]

(2) if he will estimate the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect (i) costs and (ii) savings to the NHS of using (A) single purpose and (B) dual purpose immunisations for cervical cancer; [42855]

(3) what advice the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has provided on the relative merits of single purpose and dual purpose vaccination to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and genital warts; [42856]

(4) what process was used to assess the relative economic merits of types of vaccination for genital warts and cervical cancer. [42866]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considered the expected cost-benefits from a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme against cervical cancer, which included assessment of the impact of vaccination on genital warts. A summary of the evidence considered is set out in the JCVI statement on HPV vaccines published in the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_094739.pdf

A copy of the JCVI statement has already been placed in the Library.

The economic evaluation used by the JCVI was published in the *British Medical Journal* in July 2008 and is available at:

www.bmj.com/content/337/bmj.a769.full

The cost of the HPV vaccine procured by the Department for the national health service vaccination programme is commercially confidential. Financial savings made in the procurement of Cervarix HPV vaccine meant the catch-up vaccination programme could be extended to offer the vaccine to an extra 300,000 girls. The Department provides HPV vaccine to the NHS free of charge for use in the childhood immunisation programme. The cost of administering the HPV programme was estimated to be the same regardless of which vaccine was used.

Following a tendering process in 2008, a three year contract was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline for Cevarix in 2008. This contract is due to come to an end this year and the process for re-tendering the contract has begun.

Hyperactivity: Warwickshire

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in Warwickshire have been prescribed Ritalin for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each of the last 10 years. [42417]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally.

Kidneys: Transplant Surgery

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many kidney transplants took place in each hospital trust in the South West region in each of the last five years. [42371]

Anne Milton: The following tables show the numbers of kidney transplants in each hospital trust in the South West in each of the last five years by donor type (deceased and living) and by year (2006-10).

Bristol Southmead hospital (North Bristol national health service trust) 2006-10

Donor	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Deceased	75	69	60	71	78	353
Living	36	42	38	43	41	200
Total	111	111	98	114	119	553

Plymouth Derriford hospital (Plymouth hospitals NHS trust) 2006-10

Donor	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Deceased	35	41	56	56	29	217
Living	18	17	19	19	11	84
Total	53	58	75	75	40	301

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant UK Transplant Registry

Maternity Services

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to require maternity networks to work with local maternity service liaison committees. [41616]

Anne Milton: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", set out proposals to evolve Local Involvement Networks into local HealthWatch organisations. HealthWatch will ensure that the views of patients, service users and the public are represented to commissioners. In developing and designing maternity services, it is important that the views and experiences of women remain at the heart of commissioning and their voices are heard locally. It will be for local HealthWatch to decide how to build on the best practice of Maternity Service Liaison Committees to ensure a strong voice for women and their families in the planning and delivery of maternity and newborn services.

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which maternity networks have been established since the date of publication of the NHS White Paper. [41625]

Anne Milton: The information is not collected by the Department. We are aware that in September 2010 the West Midlands Perinatal Network was launched and that the East of England are in the process of developing a clinical maternity and newborn network.

Maternity Services: Finance

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the budget for maternity care in the NHS was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006; and if he will make a statement; [41795]

(2) if he will make it his policy to prioritise the funding of maternity services within the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [42046]

Anne Milton: The Government are committed to the provision of safe and quality maternity services, founded on evidence based good practice, and focused on improving both outcomes for women and babies and women's experience of care. We have highlighted maternity services as a priority for the national health service in both the NHS Operating Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework for 2011-12. It is for the NHS to decide locally how best to deliver on national and local priorities in the light of their local circumstances.

Figures for expenditure on commissioning of secondary health care in respect of maternity are as follows:

	£ million
1996-97	1,020
2005-06	1,672

Notes:
1. The figures are taken from the Summarised Account of the Health Authorities (1996-97) and the Summarised Account of Primary Care Trusts (2005-06).
2. Secondary Care covers medical treatment or surgery that patients receive in hospital following a referral from a general practitioner (GP). Secondary care is made up of national health service, foundation, ambulance, children's and mental health trusts.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/DH_074637

Midwives: Staff Numbers

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed by the NHS in each year between 1997 and 2006; how many of those were employed in managerial grades in each year; and if he will make a statement. [41794]

Anne Milton: The annual NHS Workforce Census does not identify manager grades in midwifery. The following tables give the number of midwives employed in the years requested.

Table 1: NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting staff and support staff by type 1997 to 2006, England as at 30 September each year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total nursing, midwifery, health visiting staff and support staff	541,179	549,129	560,641	574,096	602,513	633,818	663,444	679,001	691,698	665,636
Registered midwife	22,385	22,841	22,799	22,572	23,075	23,249	23,941	24,844	24,808	24,469

Table 2: NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting staff and support staff by type 1997 to 2006, England as at 30 September each year

Full-time equivalent

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total nursing, midwifery, health visiting staff and support staff	427,077	431,980	440,055	451,005	471,999	495,602	518,880	533,529	545,633	535,530

Table 2: NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting stuff and support staff by type 1997 to 2006, England as at 30 September each year

Full-time equivalent

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Registered midwife	18,053	18,168	17,876	17,662	18,048	18,119	18,444	18,854	18,949	18,862

Note:
Enhanced validation processes have led to the removal of duplicate records from the non-medical census (from 2006 onwards). Although percentages were small (less than 1%), comparisons with years prior to this need to be treated with caution. This only effects headcount.

MRSA: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on licensing for use in the NHS of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's product BacLite to screen against the MRSA bacterium. [42876]

Mr Simon Burns: Any diagnostic test of this type should be CE marked by the manufacturer according to the safety, quality and performance requirements of the In Vitro Diagnostic Devices Directive (transposed in to United Kingdom law by the Medical Devices Regulations 2002) before they are placed on the UK market. Under the directive, national regulatory authorities, who in the UK are the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, are not directly involved in the pre-market conformity assessment process for such tests and therefore hold no information on the product's current approval status.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve methods of screening against the MRSA bacterium; and if he will make a statement. [42984]

Mr Simon Burns: A variety of methods are available to national health service trusts to screen against Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Individual trusts make their own decisions on which tests or combinations of tests to use depending on their clinical case mix and workload. The local clinical need will determine test selection. Rapid and more sensitive methods have been available to the NHS for a number of years and trusts make their own decisions on matching the technologies to their service needs.

In 2004, as part of the Department's commitment to ensuring the NHS has access to effective infection prevention and control technologies, it has asked the Health Protection Agency to convene the Rapid Review Panel (RRP). This provides a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials and other products or protocols that may be of value to the NHS and social care in the prevention and control of hospital associated infections.

NHS: Buildings

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many structures he estimates the NHS will build using prefabricated or flatpack buildings in 2010-11. [42719]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect centrally the information requested. National health service organisations locally will utilise the construction methods they consider appropriate to build their facilities, which may include prefabricated or flat pack buildings.

NHS: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on tackling barriers between health and social care funding in order to incentivise preventative action. [42791]

Paul Burstow: As part of the spending review, national health service funding rising to £1 billion per annum by 2014-15 will be spent on measures that support social care and also benefit health. The "Operating Framework for the NHS in England for 2011-12" sets out that primary care trusts (PCTs) will need to transfer this funding to local authorities to invest in social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. The Department has also made available an extra £162 million from efficiency savings this financial year for local health and care services. The money should be spent on helping people to leave hospital more quickly, re-ablement and the prevention of unnecessary admissions to hospital.

At the local level, the NHS and local authorities should work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local populations. As outlined in the Operating Framework 2011-12, NHS organisations should be working with partners on implementing the National Dementia Strategy. Moreover, the Carers' Strategy also identified that £400 million will be made available for carers' breaks over the next four years (2011-12 to 2014-15) and required that PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations.

Supporting people to live independently at home following hospital discharge sits at the interface between health and social care and relies on effective discharge planning, access to re-ablement services and both systems working in the interests of the individual. To underpin this, the Department will amend the 'Payment by Results' tariff from April 2012 so that the NHS pays for re-ablement and other post discharge services for 30 days after a patient leaves hospital. From April 2011, trusts will not be reimbursed for unnecessary re-admissions.

To prepare for the changes to the 'Payment by Results' tariff, we have allocated £70 million in 2010-11 for PCTs to spend on re-ablement. This has been further supported by the spending review with £300 million of the £1 billion NHS support for social care being made available for re-ablement services by 2014-15.

The Health and Social Care Bill (subject to parliamentary approval) outlines how the Government will seek to encourage joined up working. The Bill stipulates that local authorities would take a key role in joining up local NHS services, social care and health improvement via the Health and Wellbeing Boards. A relevant commissioning consortium must co-operate with the Health and Wellbeing Board in the exercise of the functions of the Board.

Additionally, Health and Wellbeing Boards will have a statutory duty to produce Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and have regard to these in developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for their local area. Alongside this, the NHS Commissioning Board must, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people of England, exercise its functions with a view to encouraging commissioning consortia to work closely with local authorities in commissioning local services. To support the creation of effective quality standards the remit of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will be extended to social care.

Organs: Donors

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish an updated strategy on organ donation and transplantation; [41722]

(2) for what reasons the Organ Donation Taskforce Programme Delivery Board has been disbanded; and who will be responsible for increasing organ donation and transplantation following the final meeting of the Board. [41723]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to publish an updated strategy on organ donation and transplantation. We are currently in the third year of a five year implementation programme to increase organ donation rates by 50% by 2013.

The Organ Donation Taskforce Programme Delivery Board was established in July 2008 to oversee the implementation of the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations published in January 2008. The board noted at their final meeting in January 2011 that organ donor rates had increased by 25% since the implementation process began and agreed that the taskforce recommendations, largely, had been implemented. The board also agreed that the focus in the future should be on ensuring that the new infrastructure and support mechanisms, developed under the board's leadership, become embedded as a usual part of healthcare.

This will be achieved through a variety of means including through the clinical leads for organ donation, donation committees and donation chairs in acute trusts driving improvement locally; and ongoing work to raise the profile and benefits of organ donation and transplantation with the national health service, professional groups and with the public.

Leadership will continue to be provided through the Department's national clinical director for transplantation, the Organ Donor Organisation within NHS Blood and Transplant and the relevant professional bodies.

NHS Services: Shropshire

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on the effect of reconfiguration of NHS services in Shropshire on Welsh patients. [42940]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health has had no recent discussions with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government on the effect of reconfiguration of national health services in Shropshire on Welsh patients.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last discussed the provision of cross-border health services with Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government. [42941]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health met Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 December 2010 and wrote to the Minister of Health and Social Security for the Welsh Assembly Government following the meeting to say that Departmental officials remained committed to agreeing an appropriate level of financial transfer to the Welsh Assembly Government arising from issues around national tariff rates and how these are applied to Wales.

The cross-border commissioning protocol is due to expire on 31 March 2011 and officials from the Department are also in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government with the intention of renewing the protocol, to run seamlessly from 1 April 2011. Until the forthcoming changes to the manner in which healthcare in England is commissioned are finalised in the Health and Social Care Bill, currently going through Parliament, the intention is that no substantial changes to the cross-border protocol should be introduced. For this reason, the protocol is expected to be renewed for just one year.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born in the Royal Shrewsbury hospital to mothers resident in Wales in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [42942]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many births there were at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to women resident in Wales for the last two years for which data is available. [42942]

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to women usually resident in Wales, 2008 and 2009

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	*Number*
2008	407
2009	387

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged under 16 years who were resident in Wales were kept overnight in the Royal Shrewsbury hospital in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [42943]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table, which sets out the finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust where the patient is under 16, a resident of Wales and the duration of stay was one day or longer for 2008-9 and 2009-10.

	FCEs
2008-09	571
2009-10	572

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

School Milk

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of the free nursery milk provision for the under fives. [42351]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to end the nursery milk scheme.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number and proportion of initial false positive cervical smears associated with genital warts in the latest period for which figures are available. [42051]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally. Although national health service cancer screening programmes collect statistics on false positive cervical smear results, genital warts are not reliably indicated by a false positive result.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the proportion of the work of sexual health practitioners associated with treatment of genital warts in the latest period for which figures are available; [42052]

(2) if he will estimate the average cost of a hospital consultation to treat a case of genital warts. [42853]

Anne Milton: No such estimate has been made because the cost to the national health service of treating individual diagnoses and the workload associated with them is not collected centrally.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of people infected each year by any genital wart virus by five year age cohorts. [42054]

Anne Milton: The number of diagnoses of genital warts (first episode) in genitourinary medicine clinics (GUM) clinics in England by age groups and years 1995 to 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, are given in the following table.

	Genital warts: first episode								*Genital warts: recurrence*
	Age-group								
	<15	*15-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-64*	*65+*	*Total*	*Total*
1995	195	8,367	17,781	17,270	4,603	2,108	143	50,467	38,890
1996	181	9,414	18,692	18,020	4,909	2,136	153	53,875	41,115
1997	190	10,453	20,012	19,444	5,138	2,317	140	57,852	44,219
1998	171	11,115	19,562	19,824	5,523	2,383	152	58,793	46,816
1999	206	11,273	19,943	19,795	5,791	2,589	200	60,252	47,414
2000	153	11,144	20,029	19,216	6,047	2,500	196	59,758	47,078
2001	143	11,383	20,625	19,756	6,600	2,702	203	61,505	47,055
2002	155	11,518	21,177	19,885	7,097	2,754	183	62,982	45,480
2003	155	12,192	21,893	19,689	7,207	2,986	188	64,319	45,995
2004	146	13,220	23,049	19,977	7,518	3,108	212	67,251	46,227
2005	139	13,490	23,532	20,014	7,305	3,171	189	67,852	48,747
2006	138	14,225	24,129	20,157	7,478	3,358	210	69,700	51,368
2007	153	15,653	25,814	21,593	7,926	3,632	272	75,272	55,517
2008	149	16,364	27,109	22,141	7,959	4,109	313	78,156	57,732
2009	177	15,947	26,934	22,387	8,213	4,307	307	78,274	62,230

Notes:
1. Data by age-group are only available for the groups presented.
2. Data on unknown gender and age-group are included in the Total row for 2009 data.
3. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in GUM) clinics only. A recent study (pending publication) of genital warts cases (first and recurrence) seen in GUM clinics and in General Practice in 2008 has found most cases seen in General Practice were referred on to GUM clinics and estimated that only around 5%, of cases were seen in General Practice only, i.e. figures in table 1 may represent up to 95%, of cases.
4. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. The information provided is based on reported data from GUM clinics in England that has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
6. Data are unavailable for 2010.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 and Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset (GUMCAD) returns.

Tuberculosis

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of TB in England was in each of the last 10 years; and in which groups such incidence was highest. [42326]

Anne Milton: Data on the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in England in each of the last 10 years are provided in the following table:

Rate of tuberculosis cases reported in England, 2000-2009

	Rate per 100,000
2000	12.4
2001	12.7
2002	13.3
2003	13.3
2004	13.9
2005	15.2

Rate of tuberculosis cases reported in England, 2000-2009

	Rate per 100,000
2006	15.2
2007	14.9
2008	15.4
2009	16.0

Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA)

In each of the last 10 years, TB incidence was highest among the non-United Kingdom born people[1].

The Health Protection Agency did not collect data on other risk factors for TB until recently, and data on these are not yet available.

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[1] Place of birth should not be confused with citizenship or residence status.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding his Department has provided for the development of a successor to the BCG vaccine in each of the last five years; [42327]

(2) which product development partnerships are undertaking work to develop a successor to the BCG vaccine. [42328]

Anne Milton: The funding provided by the Department to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) for projects relating to tuberculosis (TB) vaccine development is shown in the following table:

Funding to the HPA for projects relating to TB vaccine development

	£000
2006-07	657
2007-08	1,645
2008-09	1,455
2009-10	1,009
2010-11	1,210

HPA Porton has the largest TB preclinical vaccine development capability in Europe and performs critical preclinical head-to-head comparisons of the efficacy of new TB vaccines and delivery systems. These studies inform the selection of vaccines for subsequent clinical trials.

There are numerous TB vaccine development partnerships worldwide. The HPA has TB vaccine development partnerships with the following organisations:

Discovery and preclinical development of new generation tuberculosis vaccines (NEWTBVAC), a European Commission 7th Framework programme;

The European TB Vaccine Initiative (TBVI), a non-profit foundation; and

AERAS Global TB Vaccine Foundation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Trade Treaty

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of including dual-use technologies on the list of equipment to be regulated by the Arms Trade Treaty. [42152]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to securing a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty and will continue to play a lead role in the UN process. Negotiations are ongoing in the run up to the critical UN Negotiating Conference in 2012. It would not be appropriate for me to speculate about the scope of an Arms Trade Treaty at this time. We maintain a dialogue with the Parliamentary Committees on Arms Export Controls on the Arms Trade Treaty, most recently when I gave Oral evidence to the Committees on 24 January 2011.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials from his Department will attend the July 2011 negotiations at the UN on implementation mechanisms for the Arms Trade Treaty. [42153]

Alistair Burt: We are committed to securing a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty and to continuing to play a lead role in the UN process. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as the lead Government Department, head and lead the UK delegation, and has played a full and active role in the UN negotiations to date. This will continue later this month and in July, culminating in the UN Negotiating Conference in 2012.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the Arms Trade Treaty on the UK's capacity to export security and defence equipment. [42154]

Alistair Burt: The UK already operates one of the strongest export control systems in the world, and is fully committed to securing a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty that raises international standards and helps create a level playing field for the legitimate defence industry. This actively supports the Government's prosperity agenda by helping to make British industry more competitive. Hence the Government and the UK defence industry have a close working relationship on the Arms Trade Treaty, with industry representation on the wider UK Arms Trade Treaty team, and they are fully supportive of UK efforts to secure the Treaty.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the defence industry on negotiations over the Arms Trade Treaty. [42155]

Alistair Burt: The Government are working closely with a wide range of partners, including the UK defence industry, to secure a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty. A UK defence industry representative is part of the UK's wider Arms Trade Treaty team, and defence industry representatives have attended UK technical meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty to help inform the UK's position ahead of the next UN Preparatory Committee meeting starting in New York on 28 February 2011.

Bangladesh: Military Aid

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training and assistance British security services have provided to Bangladeshi security forces in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [42151]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's assistance to Bangladesh's security forces over the last 12 months has focused on the provision of human rights and ethical policing skills training to the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).

Funded through our Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme and delivered by the National Policing Improvements Agency, the project is aimed at improving RAB's ability to conduct operations in a human rights compliant manner. Over the last 12 months this training was given to senior RAB investigators focusing on the strategic, operational and tactical intelligence cycle with lessons learned from key court rulings; a Train the Trainer programme to ensure that RAB can deliver a first responders' course and cascade their training through their battalions, and training in operational judgments and procedures that comply with modern police standards.

BBC World Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely job losses resulting from the changes to the Grant-in-Aid funding to the BBC World Service for *(a)* Albanian, *(b)* Macedonian, *(c)* Portuguese for Africa, *(d)* Serbian and *(e)* English for the Caribbean services. [41673]

Mr Jeremy Browne: According to the BBC World Service, the current number of people employed on these language services is:

Albanian: 23
Macedonian: 10
Portuguese for Africa: 12
Serbian: 21
English for the Caribbean: 6.

Any decisions about possible redeployment of staff would be made by the BBC World Service.

Egypt: Freedom of Circulation

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Egyptian government on its military's approach to freedom of movement within Egypt. [42344]

Alistair Burt: *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* A state of emergency has existed in Egypt since 1981 which allows for unwarranted derogation of some of Egypt's international human rights obligations. The Foreign Secretary, in his statement to the House on 14 February, *Official Report*, columns 714-6, called for steps to end the state of emergency. On 21 February, the Prime Minister visited Egypt. He met Field Marshall Mohammed Tantawi and raised the issue of when the state of emergency would be lifted.

Throughout the recent protests in Egypt, we lobbied the Egyptian authorities at the highest level to avoid repression of the protestors, who were exercising their right to freedom of expression. We were deeply concerned by measures taken by the Egyptian authorities to prevent the protests by shutting down mobile phone networks and urged them to lift the restrictions immediately, and we raised our concerns about treatment of journalists and human rights activists.

Egypt: Press Freedom

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the independence of the media in Egypt. [41942]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* We have previously raised our concerns about freedom of expression in Egypt with the Egyptian Government, including on media restrictions in the run up to the parliamentary elections held in November and December 2010. At the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in June 2010 we called on Egypt to amend its penal code to ensure freedom of expression for journalists, publishers and bloggers.

We condemned the measures taken by the Egyptian authorities to prevent the protests and demonstrations in Egypt during January and February this year by shutting down mobile phone networks and the internet. We expressed our strong concerns to the Egyptian authorities about the mistreatment of journalists. Freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, is fundamental to building a democratic society and we will continue to monitor the situation in Egypt closely.

Holocaust: Anniversaries

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to mark the 70th anniversary of the UN declaration of 17 December 1942 on the circumstances of Jewish people in Europe; and if he will make a statement. [R] [42064]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to the response the Minister of State, my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Howell, gave in the other place on 10 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA396.

Judaism: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 639W, on Judaism: festivals and special occasions, who drafted his Chanukah message to the Jewish community; if he will reconsider his decision not to publish this message in the *Official Report*; on what basis the decision was taken; and if he will make a statement. [R] [41791]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 639W.

Messages of greeting are published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website and on the websites of relevant embassies.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to prevent the flow of arms and funding from Iran to organisations opposed to the state of Israel. [R] [42065]

Alistair Burt: We have longstanding concerns about Iranian support to groups which espouse violence in the middle east, including those who oppose the state of Israel. We take seriously Israel's legitimate security concerns and regularly raise this issue with senior political leaders in the region.

Most recently, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised arms transfers to Hezbollah with President Assad when he visited Syria on 27 January 2011.

Iran must stop attempting to exploit regional challenges for its own means. We will continue to push for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions which call for the disarmament of these armed groups and prohibit weapons transfers and give our full support to the UN sanctions committees pursuing and investigating sanctions violations.

Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's programme expenditure was allocated to *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral programmes in each year from 2005-06 to 2011-12. [40207]

Mr Hague: The actual Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) programme expenditure on bilateral and multilateral programmes in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is shown in the table. The figures for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are forecasts based on allocated budgets:

			£ million
	Bilateral	*Multilateral*	*Total*
2005-06	13.3	131.0	144.3
2006-07	24.3	103.7	128.0
2007-08	22.4	102.6	125.0
2008-09	26.7	111.0	137.7
2009-10	28.2	108.8	137.0
2010-11	11.6	111.0	122.6
2011-12	19.0	120.5	139.5

The figures cover FCO discretionary policy programmes.

JUSTICE

Bribery Act 2010

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 401W, on the Bribery Act 2010, if he will publish the further representations he has received during the consultation process since the publication of the impact assessment in 2009 on the Bribery Bill. [42097]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) to the hon. Member for Northampton South (Mr Binley) on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 577W.

Courts: Closures

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate his Department has made of the potential total receipts from the disposal of the magistrates courts and county courts announced on 14 December 2010; [42961]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the annual savings to accrue from ceasing the requirement to maintain the magistrates courts and county courts identified for closure in his announcement on 14 December 2010; [42962]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the savings to accrue from the closure of the magistrates courts and county courts identified for closure in his announcement of 14 December 2010. [42963]

Mr Djanogly: Gross savings from the closure of the courts announced on 14 December 2010 are estimated to be in the region of £41.5 million over the spending review period. The resource cost of closures are currently being reviewed as part of implementation planning. It is hoped that £38.5 million will be received from the sale of assets.

Ceasing the requirement to maintain the court buildings does not entail savings, per se, as this is not money that would necessarily be spent were a building to be retained. Rather, there will be substantial cost avoidance from not needing to maintain the buildings that are disposed of. The £41.5 million of estimated gross savings does not therefore include any savings associated with reductions in maintenance costs.

Departmental Buildings

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the running costs in each category were for each of the central London buildings operated by his Department in the latest period for which figures are available; [42955]

(2) what progress he has made on the proposed reduction in the number of his Department's properties in central London; and what estimate he has made of the likely savings to accrue from the reduction. [42958]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ), including executive agencies and arm's length bodies, currently operates 13 central London headquarters administrative buildings in addition to prison and court properties. The following table shows 2009-10 property costs for the three headquarters administrative buildings in central London for which costs are managed centrally.

Building/Category	*Total (£ million)*
MoJ headquarters, 102 Petty France	
Property rent and rates	19.7
Maintenance	2.8
Other property costs	3.0
Fuel and utilities	1.3
Charges on leased assets	12.4
Total	39.2
5th Floor, 30 Millbank	
Property rent and rates	0.4
Maintenance	0.2

Building/Category	*Total (£ million)*
Other property costs	0.1
Total	0.7
Clive House, 70 Petty France[1]	
Property rent and rates	5.2
Maintenance	0.9
Other property costs	0.3
Fuel and utilities	0.2
Total	6.6

[1] Vacant during works to refit as National Offender Management Service headquarters—May 2009 to June 2010.

In 2007, the Department began a programme to improve the usage of its administrative estate. Between then and February 2011, the MoJ has reduced the number of central London headquarters administrative properties by nine. The estimated saving during this period is £22.5 million a year (Resource Department Expenditure Limit), including depreciation. In addition to the annual resource savings, the Department sold two freehold buildings in central London for £67 million in 2010 (Capital receipt).

By 2015, the MoJ is planning to reduce the number of headquarters administrative properties in central London to four; reduce workstations from around 8,000 to around 4,000 through flexible work space and reduce the operational costs by £47 million a year.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42628]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is fully committed to supporting the principles and will work with suppliers to apply the principles where appropriate. However since the principles were only recently launched on 13 December 2010 it is too early to be able to give a more detailed assessment at this stage.

The impact of these principles on employment practice will be reviewed by the Public Services Forum in January 2012. The forum will assess how the principles contribute to good employment practices in the delivery of contracted out services.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* administrative and *(b)* front line efficiency savings his Department plans to make in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [42947]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I will address 2014-15 in addition to the years quoted in the question, because departmental plans encompass the full spending review period.

The Ministry of Justice will make savings of 33% in real terms from its administrative budget by the end of the spending review period. Departmental administration budgets for the period were published in spending review 2010, and the Ministry of Justice's allocations are as follows:

£ million

	Baseline[1]	*Allocation*			
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Administration budget[1]	704	655	606	561	517

[1] Administration budgets have been expanded to include arm's length bodies and this is reflected in increased 2010-11 baselines compared to 2010-11 outturn.

In 2014-15, the Department will make estimated total efficiency savings of around £1 billion. This figure includes savings against front line operations, 'support for delivery' functions and administrative spend. Savings plans for individual years in the spending review period are currently being developed.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42896]

Mr Blunt: Interpretation and translation services in relation to the Ministry of Justice are provided by Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Legal Services Commission, the National Offender Management Service, the Tribunal Service and the Office of the Public Guardian to:

Defendants in criminal cases

Defence witnesses in criminal cases (interpretation services for prosecution witnesses are provided by the prosecutor)

Offenders serving a custodial or community sentence

Claimants in tribunal cases

Parties to civil and family proceedings

Those who lack the capacity to make financial or health-related decisions for themselves.

The Department uses the services of freelance and agency interpreters and translators who are booked for individual assignments. Information is not held centrally on the number of bookings made and the languages required for those bookings. Estimated annual spend across the Department is in the region of £30 million for foreign language interpretation and translation and for language services for the deaf and deafblind. A project is under way to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the arrangements across the whole of the justice system, including interpretation and translation services provided by the police.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010. [42297]

Mr Djanogly: From 7 May 2010 to 30 September 2010, the date of the latest published data, 2,227 members of staff and 2,032.54 full-time equivalent staff left the Ministry of Justice. These figures only include paid staff who leave the Department and do not include staff who are off pay and have left—eg. those who are on career breaks and subsequently resign.

Ministry of Justice figures include MoJ Headquarters, the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, Wales Office, and Scotland Office (including Scotland Office and Advocate General for Scotland staff on Scottish Government systems).

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42378]

Mr Djanogly: The latest published headcount data for the Ministry of Justice are as at 30 September 2010. At that date 78,013 members of staff and 73,483.75 full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Ministry of Justice.

Ministry of Justice figures include MoJ Headquarters, the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, Wales Office, and Scotland Office (including Scotland Office and Advocate-General for Scotland staff on Scottish Government systems).

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42394]

Mr Djanogly: As at 31 May 2010 78,537 members of staff and 74,064.45 full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Ministry of Justice.

Ministry of Justice figures include MoJ Headquarters, the National Offender Management Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, Wales Office, and Scotland Office (including Scotland Office and Advocate General for Scotland staff on Scottish Government systems).

Departmental Redundancy

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the redundancy costs attributable to his proposals for reductions in posts in his Department in the next four years. [42959]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department have made no estimate for the cost of redundancy at this stage as the focus has been on completing planning for the spending review, and making reductions through a swift, MoJ-wide voluntary early departure scheme. The scheme was open to all staff that are not in front line roles.

The proposals for reductions include voluntary early departure schemes, use of any natural attrition, redeployment and career transition services to ensure there are as few redundancies as possible.

My Department's response to the spending review marks the beginning of a programme of radical change which will fundamentally reform the way justice is provided by 2015. I am confident that the process will lead to a transformed Ministry of Justice which is lean, transparent, and affordable.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011; [42081]

(2) what regulations his Department removed between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42091]

Mr Djanogly: The only statutory instrument which the Ministry of Justice has laid in Parliament between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011 which has regulatory impact is the Legal Services Act 2007 (Levy) (No. 2) Rules 2010.

No statutory instrument laid between the period above removed regulations that have regulatory impact.

Drugs: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of convictions for drug-related offences resulted in a prison sentence in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 (i) nationally, (ii) in Sussex and (iii) in Brighton and Hove. [42006]

Mr Blunt: Convictions for drug-related offences and the proportion that resulted in immediate custodial sentence, by court type, and area for 2007-09 (latest available) is shown in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 provides magistrates courts data for the Sussex police force area, Sussex Central local justice area (in which Brighton and Hove magistrates court is located) and England and Wales.

Table 2 gives data for the Crown courts in the Sussex police force area and England and Wales. There is no specific Crown court that deals with the Brighton and Hove area. Therefore information for all Crown courts dealing with cases from Sussex police force has been provided.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Table 1: Defendants found guilty of drug offences at magistrates courts and sentenced, by area, for 2007-09[1, 2]

Found guilty/sentence/area	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*
Sussex police force area			
Found guilty	815	875	958
Sentenced	680	781	886
Of which given:			
Immediate custody	19	25	30
Other sentence[4]	661	756	856
Proportion of those sentenced who were given immediate custody (%)	3	3	3

Table 1: Defendants found guilty of drug offences at magistrates courts and sentenced, by area, for 2007-09[1, 2]

Found guilty/sentence/area	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*
Sussex (Central)			
Found guilty	230	279	266
Sentenced	204	245	238
Of which given:			
Immediate custody	5	14	4
Other sentence[4]	199	231	234
Proportion of those sentenced who were given immediate custody (%)	2	6	2
England and Wales			
Found guilty	35,710	42,512	45,577
Sentenced	33,098	39,710	42,967
Of which given:			
Immediate custody	1,178	1,293	1,042
Other sentence[4]	31,920	38,417	41,925
Proportion of those sentenced who were given immediate custody (%)	4	3	2

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[4] Includes: absolute/conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Defendants found guilty of drug offences at Crown court and sentenced, by area, for 2007-09[1, 2]

Found guilty/sentence/area	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Sussex police force area			
Found guilty	326	395	462
Sentenced	448	486	529
Of which given:			
Immediate custody	308	316	366
Other sentence[3]	140	170	163
Proportion of those sentenced who were given immediate custody (%)	69	65	69
England and Wales			
Found guilty	8,855	10,431	11,216
Sentenced	11,402	13,201	13,653
Of which given:			
Immediate custody	7,008	8,195	8,383
Other sentence[3]	4,394	5,006	5,270
Proportion of those sentenced who were given immediate custody (%)	61	62	61

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes: absolute/conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Duchy of Cornwall: Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what basis his Department sought to consult the Duchy of Cornwall on the proposals for the Coroners and Justice Act 2009; and whether any amendments to the proposed legislation were made in consequence. [41613]

Mr Blunt: We do not disclose the contents of correspondence with members of the Royal Family or the Royal Household.

Fines

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the amount of unpaid monies relating to the issue of an on-the-spot fine in each of the last five years. [42907]

Mr Blunt: Data on the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over, in England and Wales for 2005–09 (latest available) and the outcome can be viewed in the table. It is not possible to make an accurate assessment of monies outstanding as, once fines are issued in default of payment, they are indistinguishable from other fines.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by age group and year, 2005-09[1] [2] England and Wales

				Of those paid			
	Number issued	Total paid in full	%	Paid in full within 21days	%	Paid in full outside 21 days	%
2005	146,481	77,247	53	56,823	39	20,424	14
2006	201,197	104,546	52	76,591	38	27,955	14
2007	207,544	106,925	52	82,133	40	24,792	12
2008	176,164	91,289	52	71,244	40	20,045	11
2009	170,393	90,116	53	69,834	41	20,282	12

	Other outcomes									
	Fine registered	%	Court hearing requested	%	PND cancelled	%	Potential prosecution	%	Outcome unknown	%
2005	62,179	42	1,588	1	2,437	2	1,805	1	1,225	1
2006	87,796	44	1,480	1	4,268	2	2,710	1	397	0
2007	90,057	43	1,253	1	5,249	3	3,980	2	80	0
2008	76,155	43	1,062	1	4,089	2	3,514	2	55	0
2009	67,646	40	897	1	4,186	2	7,257	4	291	0

[1] Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Harassment: Convictions

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence length was for persons convicted of harassment under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales in each year from 1998 to 2010. [42370]

Mr Blunt: The average sentence lengths for persons convicted under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2009 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts, sentenced to immediate custody, the average custodial sentence length and other disposal under section 2[1] of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 1998 to 2009[2] [3]

Outcome	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]	2009
Found guilty	2,221	2,753	2,933	2,806	2,864	3,020	3,348	3,635	3,768	3,745	3,931	4,365
Total sentenced[5]	2,224	2,745	2,934	2,813	2,868	3,033	3,344	3,678	3,789	3,770	3,939	4,377
of which												
Other disposals[7]	1,979	2,435	2,605	2,506	2,557	2,726	2,996	3,343	3,412	3,346	3,420	3,812
Immediate custody	245	310	329	307	311	307	348	335	377	424	519	565
Average custodial sentence length (months)[6]	3.2	7.2	5.8	5.8	5.0	7.1	5.6	6.2	5.7	4.9	5.9	6.4

[1] The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:
Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.2:
Offence of harassment;
Protection from Harassment Act 1997, s.2 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998—came into force 30 September 1998:
Racially aggravated offence of harassment
Religiously aggravated offence of harassment
Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[6] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[7] Includes: absolute/conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

HM Courts Service

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the proposed merger of HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service. [42949]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) is the new agency which brings together the administration of HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service. It is due to be launched on 1 April 2011. We expect to have the new senior structure for the organisation in place by early April and implementation of the structural design for the rest of the organisation will be completed by April 2012.

The new structure brings together corporate functions to remove duplication and increase the efficiency of the administration. Operating as a single organisation will provide the platform to improve accessibility, drive up the quality of services we offer to the public and provide a more appropriate environment to users. The public consultation—"A Platform for the Future"—which seeks views on these benefits closed on 25 February 2011 and we expect to publish a response in early April. Over the spending review period it is estimated that the integration of HMCS and the Tribunals Service will deliver savings of £112 million.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was for *(a)* HM Courts Service and *(b)* the Tribunals Service and its predecessor in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2010-11. [42950]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is as follows:

The budget for Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS):

(i) HMCS was formed on 1 April 2005 by the merger of the Court Service and 42 Magistrates Areas. Following the creation of HMCS the accounting records of the Court Service were archived and accessing them to provide the information back to 1997 would be disproportionately expensive for the Department. Information for magistrates courts is not recorded centrally as it is held by individual local authorities and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost;

(ii) £874.5 million in 2010-11.

The budget for Tribunals Service:

(i) The Tribunals Service was created on 1 April 2006 through the bringing together of 26 previously separate agencies or similar bodies. As such, we cannot provide figures for 1997-98. To do so would incur disproportionate cost;

(ii) £247.1 million in 2010-11.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department proposes to save from the merger of HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [42951]

Mr Djanogly: Through the integration of HMCS and the Tribunals Service we expect to make savings of £112 million over the course of the spending review.

The estimated savings for each year are as follows:

(a) £15 million in 2011-12;

(b) £29 million in 2012-13;

(c) £34 million in 2013-14.

We estimate annual savings of £34 million from 2014-15 onwards. A large proportion of these savings come from a reduction in staffing levels but we also assume a number of savings through a reduced overhead and removal of duplication (for example through reduced numbers of agency non-executive directors). We aim to manage the reduction in staffing levels through redeployment, natural wastage, and voluntary early departures. There will be costs associated with this over the spending review period.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what change in staffing levels he expects as a result of the merger of HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [42952]

Mr Djanogly: As a result of the integration of HMCS and the Tribunals Service, staff levels are estimated to reduce in total by 703. This reduction is at headquarters, regional and area management levels, but not at the frontline. It includes an estimated reduction of 118 in the current year (2010-11) and further reductions as follows:

(a) by 426 in 2011-12;

(b) by 158 in 2012-13;

(c) we do not expect a further change in headcount as a result of integration in 2013-14.

The proposed organisation design for the new agency is currently subject to consultation with staff. We aim to manage as many staff exits as possible through redeployment, natural wastage and voluntary early departures.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of reductions in staff in HM Courts Service in the next four years. [42954]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The estimated cost of reductions in staff in HM Courts and Tribunals Service in the next four years is circa £35 million.

Home Detention Curfews

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions he has been asked by prison governors to provide advice on specific cases concerning an application for early release under a home detention curfew in each of the last five years. [42922]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to provide figures for the number of occasions the Secretary of State for Justice has been asked by prison governors to provide advice on cases concerning applications for release under the Home Detention Curfew Scheme. The Ministry of Justice provides a helpline service for general and specific advice relating to the Home Detention Curfew Scheme (HDC) but the Department does not collate information on how often advice is provided.

Legal Advice and Assistance: Telephone Services

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has assessed the merits of providing telephone legal advice on certain family law matters in order to divert individuals away from the courts to alternative routes such as mediation. [42830]

Mr Djanogly: The existing Community Legal Advice (CLA) helpline provides specialist telephone legal advice to clients eligible for legal aid regarding family issues. The service offers information about non-court based options for resolving problems, including mediation, where this is appropriate for the client and their case.

In addition, the initial operator service of the CLA helpline provides general information about non-court options to callers in certain specific circumstances or where it is requested.

The Legal Services Commission and the Ministry of Justice are currently assessing the merits of providing more specific information about mediation services through the CLA helpline for people eligible for legal aid and also for those who are ineligible.

Legal Aid

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the compliance with competition legislation of existing arrangements for awarding publicly-funded legal services. [42915]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for the processes for the award of new legal aid contracts. The LSC department responsible for commissioning legal services includes staff trained in procurement procedure and qualified with the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. The LSC also has a commercial law team who provide advice on legislation relevant to public procurement, and takes external legal advice in relation to tender processes.

Legal Aid: Wales

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effects on recipients of legal aid in Wales of his proposals for legal aid. [42210]

Mr Djanogly: The potential impacts of the reform proposals are detailed in the impact assessments that accompanied the publication of the consultation paper. Impacts on clients in England and Wales are considered collectively.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on the review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; and if he will make a statement. [42832]

Mr Blunt: We are conducting an assessment of sentencing and rehabilitation policies, and this includes the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. We have published our proposals for reform of this Act in a Green Paper, 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders'. The consultation period for this Green Paper ends on 4 March 2011. Following this, the Government intend to take forward any agreed proposals in due course.

Prison Service Gold Command

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Prison Service Gold Command has been opened in each of the last 12 months; what the nature was of each incident that caused it to be opened; and if he will make a statement. [42786]

Mr Blunt: The Prison Service Gold Command suite was opened on a total number of 31 occasions during the 12 month period to 31 December 2010. The following table shows the nature of each serious incident as defined by restricted Prison Service Order 1400—Incident Management Manual:

Prison Service Gold Command Suite Openings 2010

Date	*Serious incident categories*	*Number*
January 2010	Barricade Hostage	2
February 2010	Concerted Indiscipline	1
March 2010	Concerted Indiscipline	1
April 2010	Incident at Height x2 Concerted Indiscipline x2	4
May 2010	Incident at Height	1
June 2010	Concerted Indiscipline/ Hostage	1
July 2010	Concerted Indiscipline at Height Hostage Concerted Indiscipline	3
August 2010	Concerted Indiscipline	1
September 2010	Hostage Hostage—Collusion	2
October 2010	Hostage x2 Concerted Indiscipline at Height Concerted Indiscipline	4
November 2010	Concerted Indiscipline x5 Barricade Hostage	7
December 2010	Concerted Indiscipline x3 Barricade/Hostage	4
Total		31

Prison Service: Operation Tornado

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost to the Prison Service was of the deployment of staff on Operation Tornado in each of the last five years; [42782]

(2) how many Tornado *(a)* units and *(b)* teams there are at each prison establishment; how many such teams there were at each prison establishment; and if he will make a statement; [42783]

(3) on how many occasions the Prison Service has been required to deploy staff under Operation Tornado in each of the last 10 years; [42784]

(4) on how many occasions the Prison Service has been required to deploy staff under Operation Tornado in each of the last 12 months. [42785]

Mr Blunt: Any serious incident in a prison, immigration removal centre or secure training centre may require the reinforcement of additional staff and resources to assist in its resolution. They can draw upon national plans to ensure the deployment of support and mutual aid, outlined in restricted Prison Service Order 1400—Incident Management Manual. These arrangements are referred to as 'Operation Tornado'. Central records are available from January 2008 and in the period until 31 December 2010 the total number of deployments, as follows, was 33.

2008: 12

2009: 6

2010: 15

In the 12-month period until 31 December 2010 Prison Service resources providing mutual aid under Operation Tornado were deployed as follows:

2010	*Number*
January	0
February	1
March	0
April	2
May	0
June	1
July	1
August	1
September	0
October	2
November	5
December	2
Total	15

Note:
These data include deployments to immigration removal centres under the management of UKBA.

It is not appropriate to provide the information relating to the specific resource of commitments allocated to each prison, or region. The information is operationally sensitive and its publication could undermine the maintenance of security and good order in prisons, or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained.

Each prison governor has the delegated authority for ensuring their prison can deliver the required mutual aid staffing commitments within local budgets. In order to provide the information relating to the national cost of deploying mutual aid, we would need to contact all Prison Service establishments, ask them to check their local records and to submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on training prison officers on human rights and diversity-related matters in each of the last three years. [42932]

Mr Blunt: The specific costs of training prison officers in human rights and diversity-related matters cannot be identified because these subjects are integrated into all training programmes.

Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population was in each week since May 2010. [42966]

Mr Blunt: The prison population in each week since May 2010 is set out in the following table. This information is published weekly on the HMPS website at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/publicationsdocuments/index.asp?cat=85

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Date	*Population*
2010	
7 May	84,982
14 May	85,009
21 May	85,201
28 May	85,147
4 June	85,096
11 June	85,056
18 June	85,085
25 June	84,966
2 July	85,074
9 July	85,097
16 July	85,117
23 July	85,182
30 July	85,009
6 August	85,115
13 August	85,123
20 August	85,091
27 August	85,111
3 September	84,955
10 September	85,027
17 September	85,192
24 September	85,368
1 October	85,495
8 October	85,325
15 October	85,276
22 October	85,228
29 October	85,159
5 November	85,269
12 November	85,274
19 November	85,393
26 November	85,454
3 December	85,227
10 December	84,896
17 December	84,548
24 December	83,701
31 December	83,055
2011	
7 January	82,991
14 January	83,305
21 January	83,780
28 January	84,145
4 February	84,469
11 February	84,785
18 February	85,072

Prisoners: Employment

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to support post-release employment for prisoners in order to reduce recidivism. [42834]

Mr Blunt: We are working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which is launching a new approach to improving employment outcomes based on payment by results. The Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders" published on 7 December has set out the intention to incentivise Work programme providers to support post-release employment for unemployed offenders, linked to reducing reoffending, and also to engage more employers to train and recruit offenders.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what category of crimes each foreign national prisoner serving a custodial sentence in England and Wales was convicted. [42967]

Mr Blunt: The number of foreign national prisoners serving an immediate custodial sentence (including recalls), by offence group, as at 31 December 2010 is shown in the following table.

Offence group	*Number of foreign nationals*
Burglary	262
Drug offences	1,937
Fraud and forgery	520
Motoring offences	130
Offence not recorded	37
Other offences	874
Robbery	685
Sexual offences	1,037
Theft and handling	452
Violence against the person	1,749
Total	7,683

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mental Illness

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of prisoners with a personality disorder. [41524]

Mr Blunt: Personality disorders are common conditions, with differing levels of severity. It is estimated that approximately two-thirds of prisoners, including sentenced and remand prisoners totalling approximately 57,000, would meet the criteria for at least one type of personality disorder. For a relatively small number of offenders, in its most severe forms, personality disorder is linked to a serious risk of harm to themselves and to others. These offenders have highly complex psychological needs that create challenges for staff in terms of management, treatment and maintaining a safe working environment.

The national health service and National Offender Management Service plan to reconfigure existing services in secure and community settings to manage high risk, sexual or violent offenders whose offending is linked to severe forms of personality disorder. The implementation plan for these changes is subject to a separate consultation by the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice launched on 17 February.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made on increasing the number of prisoner transfer agreements. [37350]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: It is the Government's policy to extend or negotiate new prisoner transfer agreements (PTAs) with as many countries as possible. PTAs provide one part of the solution to achieving our objectives of significantly reducing the foreign prisoner population in UK detention and so the burden on the UK taxpayer. In line with our normal practice, wherever possible we seek to negotiate PTAs that do not require prisoners to consent to transfer.

In consultation with the FCO, we have reviewed our global policy for the negotiation of new or amended prisoner transfer agreements. This policy reflects both the need to secure agreements with those countries that have the largest nationality groups serving sentences in UK prisons; and those where British nationals are imprisoned abroad, in particular where we have concerns about their welfare. We also seek to take advantage of opportunities where another country is seeking a PTA with the UK: even if the total number of prisoners from that country serving sentences here is small and there is no pressing consular need. Finally, agreement in one country can create momentum for approval in a neighbouring state. We therefore may work on a regional basis if a dynamic allows for progress.

The UK currently has prisoner transfer arrangements with over 100 countries and territories. A prisoner transfer agreement with Rwanda was ratified on 23 November 2010 and in addition to Nigeria, negotiations have begun with other countries including Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in line with the policy above. Preparations are under way for the implementation of the EU prisoner transfer agreement which enters into force in December 2011.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners of each nationality were repatriated in *(a)* January and *(b)* February 2011. [42548]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out as follows:

Prisoners repatriated from England and Wales in January and February 2011

Country to which transfer took place	*January 2011*	*February 2011 (up to 25 February)*
Bermuda	1	—
The Netherlands	2	1
Portugal	—	1

The repatriation of prisoners to Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the appropriate Ministers in the relevant devolved Administration.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners in UK prisons who were transferred to the UK under prisoner transfer agreements following convictions abroad were *(a)* released early, *(b)* released early under the home detention curfew scheme and *(c)* released early under exceptional circumstances through the home detention curfew scheme in each of the last five years; [42925]

(2) how many prisoners were transferred to UK prisons from each country of origin under prisoner transfer agreements in each of the last five years. [42926]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners convicted and sentenced abroad who are transferred to prisons in England and Wales to serve the remainder of their sentences are released in accordance with the applicable law governing release in England and Wales. Prisoners are released on their statutory release date unless they are released early, where applicable, on parole, under the Home Detention Curfew Scheme, or early on compassionate or other grounds. Information on the release dates of transferred prisoners is not recorded separately and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of prisoners transferred to England and Wales in each of the last four years and the countries from which they were transferred is given in the following table. Prior to 2007, the countries from which prisoners were transferred were not separately recorded.

Prisoners transferred to England and Wales 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010

Country	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Austria	—	1	—	—
Australia	3	1	—	1
Belgium	—	—	1	1
Brazil	—	—	1	2
Costa Rica	—	2	2	1
Cyprus	2	2	5	5
Ecuador	—	1	—	—
France	—	—	1	4
Germany	1	2	2	1
Ghana	—	—	2	3
Grenada	1	—	—	3
Hong Kong	—	2	2	2
India	—	2	1	—
Japan	7	8	3	3
Laos	—	—	1	1
Luxembourg	—	—	1	—
Mexico	—	2	—	—
Morocco	—	1	1	—
Netherlands	6	—	—	1
Norway	—	—	1	1
Panama	—	1	—	1
Portugal	2	—	—	1
Republic of Ireland	9	2	8	14
Romania	—	—	1	—
Slovakia	—	—	—	1
Spain	12	10	17	22
South Korea	—	1	—	—
Sweden	2	—	2	2
Switzerland	1	—	—	—
Thailand	4	1	4	4
Trinidad and Tobago	6	2	2	8
Turkey	—	—	—	2
USA	10	8	4	5
Venezuela	2	6	2	—
Total	68	55	64	89

The transfer of prisoners to Scotland and Northern Ireland is a devolved subject and is a matter for the appropriate Ministers in the relevant devolved Administration.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the prisoner transfer agreements in respect of the transfer of *(a)* Michael Binnington and *(b)* Luke Atkinson from Cyprus to Britain; and what the conditions were of each such transfer; [42927]

(2) what representations he has received from the Cypriot authorities on the early release of *(a)* Michael Binnington and *(b)* Luke Atkinson. [42928]

Mr Blunt: It would not be appropriate to place in the Library of the House information relating to the transfer of named individuals as the answer contains personal information. I will communicate privately with the hon. Member about this issue. However, I can confirm that the Cypriot authorities have not made any representations about the early release of Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson.

Prisons: Asbestos

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 796W, on prisons: asbestos, (1) whether, on 31 December 2010, there remained asbestos in the fabric of the buildings at HM Prison Ford following the comprehensive survey of the estate on 2002-03 and the subsequent programme to remove asbestos that was implemented following the review; [42903]

(2) in which prisons the 2002-03 comprehensive survey of the estate identified the presence of low-risk asbestos which was not removed following this review; [42904]

(3) in which prison establishments the 2002-03 comprehensive survey of the estate identified the presence of high-risk asbestos; and when the subsequent programme to remove the asbestos was completed at each establishment; [42905]

(4) whether any planned work programme to remove the asbestos from prison establishments has been *(a)* postponed, *(b)* cancelled or *(c)* delayed; [42906]

(5) what plans were put in place following the 2002-03 comprehensive survey of the prison estate for the removal of low-risk asbestos; and if he will make a statement. [42909]

Mr Blunt: Asbestos was identified in all prisons following a comprehensive survey in 2002-03. Asbestos is still permitted by the Health and Safety Executive in some construction and building activities as there is currently no satisfactory alternative. In prisons it is still used in the gaskets to mechanical systems, but poses a low risk.

Following the survey in 2002-03 it was not necessary to remove all identified occurrences of asbestos. However, a programme of removal of high-risk asbestos at the prisons detailed in the following list was implemented by local works managers under the supervision of the regional estates manager. This was completed in 2005 at a cost of around £1.4 million. We are not aware of any significant delay or cancellation in this programme to remove asbestos from prisons.

Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Brockhill
Canterbury
Cardiff
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Drake Hall
Gartree
Grendon/Spring Hill

Guys Marsh
Hewell Grange
Highdown
Hindley
Kirkham
Leicester
Lewes
Lincoln
Long Lartin
Nottingham
Parkhurst and Camp Hill (now part of Isle of Wight prison)
Pentonville
Reading
Shrewsbury
Stafford
Styal
Swansea
Usk/Prescoed
Wellingborough
Winchester

Asbestos identified at Ford was assessed as being low risk and was being managed locally but was not removed as part of the above programme. It was present in the prison on the evening of 31 December 2010.

Following the survey in 2002-03, a comprehensive management plan was put into place, which ensured that every prison holds an electronic register of asbestos. A national training initiative was set up through the Prison Service College to deliver asbestos awareness training for those identified as requiring it and asbestos management training for works site managers.

Prison Service Order 5901, 'Maintenance of Prison Service Buildings', requires asbestos to be re-inspected and photographed at a time indicated by a risk assessment and at least once every year. Any disturbance or deterioration of the asbestos must be reflected in the reviewed risk assessments. If the asbestos is identified as posing an unacceptably increased risk, a proposal for its removal should be submitted as part of the prison's maintenance strategy. Asbestos judged as being low-risk will not be routinely removed, as disturbing it may put staff at greater danger than if it were to be left in situ.

Prisons: Closures

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the amount it will receive from the disposal of Lancaster Castle prison and Ashwell prison. [42849]

Mr Blunt: Lancaster Castle prison is leased from the Duchy of Lancaster. Following the prison's closure it will be returned to the Duchy and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will therefore not receive any payment.

Discussions about the disposal of Ashwell prison are still in their early stages and it is too soon to say what the MoJ expects to receive in respect of the sale. The land and any property on the site will be placed on the open market for offers with a view to obtaining best value from the sale.

Prisons: Construction

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisons and *(b)* detention centres in Britain he estimates will be built using prefabricated or flatpack buildings in 2010-11. [42716]

Mr Blunt: One new prison in England and Wales, Isis, has been built using prefabricated buildings in 2010-11. Additional accommodation has also been constructed using this method at Littlehey prison and young offender institution during the period specified. Information about prisons in Northern Ireland and Scotland is respectively the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Scottish Government. No detention centres (i.e. immigration removal centres or secure training centres) in Britain have been built in this way.

Prisons: Furniture

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many new *(a)* beds and *(b)* mattresses were purchased for use by prisoners in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of such purchases in each such year; [42929]

(2) what the average cost was of providing a *(a)* bed and *(b)* mattress for each prisoner held in a (i) public prison and (ii) privately-run prison in the last period for which figures are available; [42930]

(3) how long a *(a)* bed and *(b)* mattress is issued for use by prisoners before it is due to be replaced. [42931]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the quantity of beds and mattresses purchased for use by prisoners in each of the last three years. The beds are manufactured by prisoners through the prison industries operation. The table references the cost of such purchases in each of the last three years. Using an average of 85,000 prisoner places, the average cost of providing a bed is approximately £8 per annum and the average cost of providing a mattress is approximately £24 per annum.

The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide figures for the private prisons as they source these items directly by themselves. The 2008-09 procurement initiative to introduce the "Zero Waste Wipe Clean Mattress and Pillow Solution" has increased the life span of a mattress to an average of 22 months. It has also reduced the cost and environmental impact of disposing of the mattress. This contract is for the supply, collection and recycling of highly flame retardant, robust wipe-clean prison mattresses and pillows.

Mattress and bed order quantity and value for 2008-10 (calendar years)

		2008		2009		2010		Last three years	
Item	*Description*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Total quantity*	*Total value (£)*
0435	Mattress, F/R Foam, STD 1.9m long	41,357	1,794,066.66	39,074	1,695,030.12	38,277	1,660,456.26	118,708	5,149,553.04

Mattress and bed order quantity and value for 2008-10 (calendar years)

		2008		*2009*		*2010*		*Last three years*	
Item	*Description*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Total quantity*	*Total value (£)*
0436	Mattress F/R Foam, 7 feet, 2.2m long	799	43,026.15	952	51,265.20	550	29,617.50	2,301	43,026.15
0437	Mattress Hospital, F/R Foam	180	10,054.80	234	13,071.24	153	8,546.58	567	10,054.80
0438	Mattress Narrow, F/R Foam 1.9m long	3,395	156,815.05	4,190	193,536.10	5,955	275,061.45	13,540	156,815.05
Sub-total		45,731.00	2,003,962.66	44,450.00	1,952,902.66	44,935.00	1,973,681.79	135,116.00	5,359,449.04
2078	Bed Head, Cream	1,650	32,026.50	1,739	33,753.99	1,330	25,815.30	4,719	32,026.50
2081	Bed Foot, Cream	1,860	23,529.00	1,757	22,226.05	1,028	13,004.20	4,645	23,529.00
2084	Bed Base 6 Cream	2,347	102,235.32	2,236	97,400.16	2,153	93,784.68	6,736	102,235.32
2089	Bed Base 7 Cream	163	7,167.11	172	7,562.84	194	8,530.18	529	7,167.11
34017	Bed Single WWF	1,871	419,272.39	3,031	679,216.79	752	168,515.68	5,654	1,267,004.86
34025	Bunk Bed Mk2 WWF	1	100.97	828	83,603.16	527	53,211.13	1,356	136,915.32
Sub-total		7,892.00	584,331.29	9,763.00	923,762S9	5,984.00	362,861.23	23,639.00	1,568,878.11

Prisons: Training

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions his Department has had with private sector organisations on expanding provision of meaningful work and training in prisons; [42829]

(2) whether his Department has plans to extend initiatives such as that conducted by the Timpson Academy with offenders in HM Prisons Liverpool and Wandsworth. [42833]

Mr Blunt: The development of prisoners' employment skills helps them to become productive members of society and improves their chances of gaining employment on release, which we know is a major contributor to turning them away from crime.

We set out our intention to make prisons places of work and industry in the Green Paper "Breaking the cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders" published on 7 December 2010. As part of the consultation, we have been discussing with the private sector ways in which we can increase further their participation in providing work and training in prisons.

There are already examples, like the Timpson Academies, of successful partnerships between prisons and private sector organisations; whether employers are recruiting offenders directly from prison, running a prison workshop, training prisoners for specific jobs, providing the chance of employment on release or helping shape policy and practice.

We will continue to consult with the private sector on its role in contributing to the rehabilitation of offenders through skills development and employment in both prisons and the community.

Sentencing

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will provide guidance to the judiciary and magistracy to seek to ensure that court sentence ranges do not vary by region. [41572]

Mr Blunt: The independent Sentencing Council for England and Wales issues sentencing guidelines to judges and magistrates. The Council was set up under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to promote greater transparency and consistency in sentencing across England and Wales.

Social Impact Bonds

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 404W, on social impact bonds, what the evaluation criteria will be for assessing whether the programme has delivered sufficient reductions in reconviction events to warrant payment; who will be responsible for carrying out such an evaluation; and if he will make a statement. [42910]

Mr Blunt: Following a competitive tender process, the Ministry of Justice has appointed QinetiQ and the university of Leicester to assess whether the first social impact bond cohort delivers a sufficient reduction in reconvictions to trigger a payment to investors.

QinetiQ and the university of Leicester will calculate the total frequency of reconviction events for the offenders in the first social impact bond cohort, during the 12 months following their release from prison. To determine whether a payment should be made, this reconviction rate will be compared with the frequency of conviction events over the same time period for a comparison group. The comparison group will consist of 10,000 offenders released from other prisons, identified by QinetiQ and the university of Leicester as having similar characteristics to the social impact bond offenders.

Together with the Big Lottery Fund, the Government will pay for results if reconvictions fall by 10% across the cohort. If this threshold is not achieved, no payment will be made. The appointment of an independent assessor for the second and third cohorts will follow a full competitive tender process.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 404W, on social impact bonds, what the commissioning process entailed; what selection criteria were used; which other companies or charities submitted proposals to be considered as potential partners for the pilot project at HM Prison Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [42911]

Mr Blunt: The social impact bond at Peterborough prison was commissioned on 18 March 2010. This followed a period of commercial negotiations between Social Finance and the Ministry of Justice which began in June 2009.

The innovative social impact bond is the first social investment scheme commissioned by the Government, and as such, the approach has not been piloted elsewhere in the public sector. The unique nature of the Social Finance proposal, and the provision of £5 million innovation funding support by the Big Lottery Fund, meant that a formal competitive process was not appropriate. Throughout negotiations with Social Finance, the Ministry of Justice took appropriate action to secure value for money. The Ministry of Justice obtained clearance for the pilot from the Domestic Affairs (Public Engagement and the Delivery of Services) Committee, and support from HM Treasury.

Future payment by results contracts, including those supported by social models of investment, will be subject to a competitive process.

Supreme Court: Flags

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who granted authority for the Supreme Court to fly its own flag as well as the Union flag from its building; and if he will make a statement. [42049]

Mr Djanogly: The chief executive, on behalf of the President, Deputy President and Justices of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom sought advice about flag flying from the Flag Institute. The institute's guidance is set out in its joint publication with the Flags and Heraldry Committee (an All Party Parliamentary Group) titled "Flying flags in the United Kingdom—A guide to Britain's flag protocol". The guide permits double flagging on one flagpole provided that the senior flag is flown at the top of the pole.

Authority for the flying of the Supreme Court flag beneath the Union flag on days when the court is sitting or handing down judgments was granted by the President, Deputy President and Justices of the Supreme Court. No other authority was required.

Theft: Re-offenders

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of ensuring that second and third cases brought against an individual for offences relating to theft of goods valued below £5,000 are kept at a magistrates court for summary determination. [41958]

Mr Blunt: We are considering various ways of keeping out of the Crown court cases that do not need to be tried there. To provide that some offences that are triable either way could in certain circumstances be treated as summary only would be one possibility. Any change to the status quo would take into account the Government's commitment (as stated in the coalition agreement) to protect historic freedoms through the defence of trial by jury.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42599]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice is involving diverse civil society organisations when developing its policies and in delivering services across the Department's business.

We are committed to further opening up our services to independent providers and we are working with civil society organisations to identify and remove barriers to their engagement. We are helped in this by the refreshed Compact and wider Government reforms.

The Ministry's Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory Group (RRTSAG) is an important forum for providing advice to my colleagues and officials on policy and strengthening the sector's role in reducing reoffending.

We have worked closely with the RRTSAG and other civil society partners to develop the Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders', and we are consulting widely as well as through targeted approaches—for example we are co-ordinating a cross-sector symposium on payment by results which I will attend.

In developing proposals for how victims' services should be commissioned we are working closely with voluntary sector providers to develop a transparent and sustainable funding model using the Compact as a basis. We are also engaging with victims' charities and service providers on the development of a range of policies on victims and witnesses.

There are a number of areas in the legal aid review which we are considering closely with not-for-profit advice providers and we have sought their views during the consultation process. The Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Huntingdon (Mr Djanogly) has recently met with representatives of advice providers to discuss the potential impact of the proposed reforms.

We have involved the Family Mediation Council (comprises both civil society and private sector organisations) in developing family mediation policy. We have engaged FMC representatives within the MoJ Project Board and we are actively involving the mediation community in setting the future direction of policy.

The Ministry and its agencies are funding voluntary sector umbrella bodies such as Clinks, Action for Prisoners' Families, and the Advice Services Alliance to give a voice to and grow the contribution of diverse civil society organisations and their users.

We are promoting the refreshed Compact throughout the Department and its agencies. We welcome plans to strengthen accountability arrangements.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps his Department has taken to support the Big Society initiative; [42639]

(2) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the Big Society initiative. [42659]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I and my ministerial team support and encourage volunteering in many ways, in our ministerial roles and as constituency Members. We actively support initiatives by participating in visits, attending community events and raising awareness of volunteering through media activity.

The Ministry's reform programme and business plan are underpinned by the Big Society principles. This includes increased competition of our services; moving to payment by outcomes commissioning; publishing data so that the public can hold us to account; lifting the burden of bureaucracy by reviewing top down performance arrangements; and increasing community access to and involvement in local criminal justice.

We have already made some commitments and we are exploring and consulting on a range of relevant approaches, including through our Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders'. These include:

Testing out local Neighbourhood Justice Panels to give communities greater responsibility for tackling some low-level crime and antisocial behaviour.

Giving communities a choice in the work undertaken by offenders through Community Payback.

Exploring restorative justice approaches that empower communities in seeking reparation for crimes.

Improving the links between courts and communities by further developing local multi-agency problem solving models.

Promoting and reducing barriers to volunteering and broader participation in the Justice System over time. The Green Paper commits us to building on the extensive volunteering already taking place and bringing forward further plans on community involvement.

We will no longer provide rehabilitation services directly without testing where the private and voluntary sectors can deliver more efficiently and effectively. We will publish a strategy for competing offender services by June 2011.

We launched the Social Impact Bond pilot in Peterborough Prison last year—social investors are paying upfront for intensive services and mentoring delivered by the voluntary sector. We will pay solely on the results they deliver.

We will run at least six new payment by results projects, which will be open to a diverse range of providers of rehabilitation services. Two of these will test a local financial incentives model in Manchester and selected London boroughs. We will share savings with the local area if they are successful in reducing demand and reoffending, which can then be reinvested in further crime prevention activity.

Through the Family Justice System review we are exploring the potential for family mediation to be delivered by local independent mediation services.

We are investing nearly £30 million over the next three years through the voluntary sector to support victims of crime.

We are consulting on introducing a single reducing reoffending measure.

We are proposing reducing the central burden on local youth offending teams through lighter touch performance management and more risk based inspection. We have already removed the ring fence from the YOT grant to allow more flexibility in how they use their funding.

We have published sentencing data since October 2010 and we are consulting on proposals to further increase the accessibility and transparency of justice data and outcomes including by area.

Tribunals Service

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the effects of proposed reforms to disability living allowance on the work of the Tribunals Service. [42828]

Mr Djanogly: The Tribunals Service and Department for Work and Pensions have been working closely together to manage demands on tribunals and the capacity of tribunals to deal with increased work loads. Regular discussions will continue in planning for the implementation of reforms to disability living allowance.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Copyright Tribunal and the Competition Appeal Tribunal are to operate under shared administration within the Tribunals Service. [42985]

Mr Djanogly: Both the Copyright Tribunal and the Competition Appeal Tribunal are currently being considered for future transfer to HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). This is still at a very early stage and no final decisions have been taken whether either or both tribunals should transfer. HMCTS provides administrative support to a number of different tribunal jurisdictions and should it be decided and agreed that either or both the Copyright Tribunal and Competition Appeal Tribunal should transfer then the arrangements made will take account of their specialist needs.

HMP Woodhill: Education

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many hours a week on average prisoners in HM Prison Woodhill had access to education in the latest period for which figures are available. [42099]

Mr Blunt: During 2008-09 prisoners at HMP Woodhill spent on average 4.5 hours per prisoner per week in education.

The figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Figures for 2009-10 will be available in March.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Domestic Violence

1. **Mr Tom Harris:** To ask the Attorney-General what recent assessment has been made of the role of specialist domestic violence services in improving prosecution rates in cases involving allegations of domestic violence. [42451]

The Solicitor-General: Evaluations of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) in 2005 and in 2008 clearly demonstrated that SDVCs, involving specialist domestic violence support services, have contributed to improving prosecution rates as well as safety for domestic violence victims.

Bribery Act 2010

4. **Chris Williamson:** To ask the Attorney-General what recent assessment he has made of the role of the Serious Fraud Office in implementation of the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010. [42454]

The Attorney-General: The Serious Fraud Office has been contributing to the development of the Ministry of Justice's guidance for commercial organisations about adequate procedures to prevent bribery. The director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions will also be publishing joint prosecution guidance for prosecutors in due course.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Teesside

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has reviewed on the biorefinery at Seal Sands on Teeside proposed by INEOS Bio; and if he will take steps to enable the project to go ahead. [42544]

Gregory Barker: The Government are supporting development of this important demonstration project through grant funding. The scoping part of the project was successfully completed in 2010. DECC, together with One North East and technical experts at the NNFCC have been advising INEOS Bio as they work on issues concerning the construction stage of the project.

Carbon Trust

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on achievement of carbon reduction targets of reductions in the budgets of the *(a)* Carbon Trust and *(b)* Energy Savings Trust. [42039]

Gregory Barker: No assessment has been made as both the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust continue to develop their business plans for 2011-12 and in doing so are seeking to drive efficiencies, while maintaining existing levels of service and outcomes where possible. From October 2012, we expect an even greater level of emissions reductions to be achieved with the implementation of the Green Deal, a new scheme to drive energy efficiency in buildings.

Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the independence of the Committee on Climate Change of its inclusion in the bodies listed in schedule 7 to the Public Bodies Bill. [43360]

Gregory Barker: The Government have laid an amendment to the Public Bodies Bill that, if agreed, would remove clause 11 and schedule 7 from the Bill. However even were that not the case, the inclusion of the Committee on Climate Change in schedule 7 to the Public Bodies Bill—along with all other statutory public bodies that would require such a legislative framework if needing reform—would not have changed its independent nature or the important role that it plays.

Departmental Location

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43475]

Gregory Barker: The Department currently has no such plans.

Energy: Business

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he has made an assessment of the combined effects on energy intensive industries of forecast increases in global energy costs and the implementation of proposed domestic energy legislation, including the carbon price support; [41777]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of his proposals for electricity market reform and a carbon price support on *(a)* energy intensive industries, *(b)* the steel industry, *(c)* the ceramic industry, *(d)* the glass industry, *(e)* the paper and pulp industry and *(f)* the cement industry; [41778]

(3) what plans he has to assist manufacturers of energy intensive products to compete internationally after the implementation of proposals for electricity market reform and a carbon price support; [41779]

(4) what work will be undertaken by the joint project between his Department and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to consider the cumulative effects of energy and climate change policies on energy-intensive industries in the UK; and when he expects the results of this work to be published. [41780]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to tackling the challenges of energy security, and affordability of energy prices, for energy intensive users.

The Government published their initial assessment of the impacts of the carbon price support policy in the impact assessment which accompanied the consultation document published at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
consult_carbon_price_support_condoc.pdf

The Government are currently undertaking a review of the impact of climate change and energy policies on energy intensive users and I aim to publish findings of the review in the spring.

I will consider policy options once this ongoing research and analysis has been completed.

Energy: Cost-effectiveness

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the cost-effectiveness of energy savings and efficiencies as a means of meeting the Government's energy policy objectives. [42683]

Gregory Barker: Cost effectiveness is one of a number of important criteria Government must take into account when considering policy options—both in the short term and long term.

An economic appraisal of the costs and benefits is a mandatory part of assessing the impacts of all policies, and allows consideration of the relative merits of different policy options. This must be carried out in line with HM Treasury's Green Book and, where policies have a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions, with the supplementary guidance on the valuation of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions published by DECC.

Considerations of the long-term pathway to the UK's target to reduce emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels by 2050 is also part of the evidence base to inform decision making.

Across the package of policies and measures put in place to deliver the savings required to meet the UK's Carbon Budgets there is a wide range of cost-effectiveness. Conservation and energy efficiency measures typically represent more cost-effective options in the near term, while decarbonising the power generation sector is key to place the UK on track with its long-term target—and to do so at least-cost, avoiding locking in to costlier alternatives.

Fuel Oil: Totnes

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of properties in *(a)* Totnes constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England which do not have mains gas access and which use domestic heating oil. [43448]

Charles Hendry: In 2008, the latest year for which this information is available, there were around 773,000 households in England which had no access to mains gas and that used heating oil as their main heating fuel. Of these households, around 191,000 were located in the South West Government Office Region.

Equivalent figures for the Totnes constituency are not available.

Fuel Oil: Prices

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission an inquiry into the reason for recent trends in the price of domestic heating oil. [43447]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 21 January concerning the off-grid energy market. I am keen that the reasons for the high price of domestic heating oil and supply issues this winter are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. The Office of Fair Trading market study will provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly. I look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

Power Stations: Fossil Fuels

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the UK's energy he estimates will be supplied by power stations operating on fossil fuels by *(a)* 2020 and *(b)* 2030. [42846]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not produce a projection of the electricity mix between now and 2030. The generation mix to 2020 and 2030 will be driven by commercial decisions taken within the policy framework for the electricity market. However in the course of analysis undertaken for various policies we run scenarios that result in different generation mixes depending on the assumptions used.

For example, the analytical work for the Electricity Market Reform consultation document, published on the 16 December 2010, included modelling by Redpoint Energy of the electricity system out to 2030. The modelling work used an indicative carbon emissions target for the electricity system of 100gCO_2/kWh by 2030, which was consistent with advice from the Committee on Climate Change at the time. This modelling showed that unabated power stations operating on fossil fuels would provide approximately 54% of electricity supplied in 2020 and approximately 24% of electricity supplied in 2030.

Following this analysis, in December 2010, the Committee on Climate Change suggested that a carbon emissions intensity of 50gCO_2/kWh by 2030 would be required to meet longer term carbon goals. This scenario would result in less electricity being supplied from fossil fuel generation in 2030 than under the 100gCO_2/kWh scenario.

Smart Electricity Grid

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the relative merits of *(a)* wireless mesh, *(b)* power line carrier, *(c)* GPRS, *(d)* 3G cellular and *(e)* fixed consumer broadband as potential communications platforms for the development of a smart electricity grid. [41744]

Charles Hendry: Each of these technologies could have significant potential in the development of a smart grid.

We have not made an assessment of the potential benefits of various options for communications platforms for smart grid, as we believe the market will establish the communications system that will best serve the needs of the electricity system.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential benefits of wireless mesh technology as a platform for smart electricity grid development. [41765]

Charles Hendry: Wireless mess technology is one of a number of telecommunications systems that could be used to support smart grids.

We have not made an assessment of the potential benefits of wireless mesh technology as a platform for smart electricity grid development, as we believe the market will establish what communications system will best serve the needs of the networks to meet their future challenges

Water Power: Finance

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding mechanisms he plans to put in place to encourage investment in the marine renewable sector following the phasing out of the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund in March 2011. [42728]

Gregory Barker: The Department is currently developing its detailed plans for the allocation of the £200 million, to support the development of low carbon technologies, announced in the spending review—the needs of wave and tidal energy technologies are being considered as part of that process.

A scheduled banding review of renewables obligation support for all technologies, including marine technologies, began last October. The review will consider whether any changes are needed to the current bands. We intend to consult on any changes to the bands this summer and to confirm the revised bands in the autumn, one year earlier than previously announced.

Any changes in support levels will come into effect on the 1 of April 2013, (2014 for offshore wind) subject to sate aids and parliamentary approval.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage *(a)* wave and tidal technology developers and *(b)* marine energy device manufacturers to locate themselves in the UK. [42729]

Gregory Barker: We have moved to establish a new UK Marine Energy programme, that will address the barriers affecting the UK marine energy sector's ability to develop and deploy wave and tidal energy devices at a commercial scale.

Through the programme we will put in place a coherent programme of policies across Government, led by DECC, to enable the UK marine energy sector to move from prototype testing to commercial deployment.

With the right framework of policies in place we can both develop our indigenous UK marine energy industry and attract investment and manufacturing into the UK.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Social Security Benefits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of personnel in each of the three services who are in receipt of *(a)* working families tax credit, *(b)* income support and *(c)* other benefits. [40142]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Working tax credit and child tax credits replaced working families' tax credit in April 2003.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010; [42305]

(2) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available; [42386]

(3) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42402]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Ministry of Defence strength by headcount and full-time equivalent at 1 May 2010 and 1 January 2011

	May	*January*	*Change in Strength*
Headcount	89,770	88,040	-1,740
Equivalent	85,640	84,180	-1,470

Source:
DASA (Quad Service)

Ministry of Defence headcount and full-time equivalent exits between 1 May 2010 and 1 January 2011

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
Outflow	3,440	3,250

Notes:
1. All totals have been individually rounded to the nearest 10 and totals and sub totals may not match precisely.
2. Totals for strengths include Locally Engaged Civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.
3. Outflow data exclude Locally Engaged Civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel for whom entrance and exit data are not available and can be tracked only by net changes within strength totals.

Source:
DASA (Quad Service)

Departmental Security

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on contracts with the private sector to provide security at his Department's establishments *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in each of the last five years. [41774]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: The value of the contracts that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) had in place with the private sector to provide security guarding at MOD establishments in each of the last five Financial Years (FY) in the United Kingdom and overseas is represented in the following table:

Private security costs for MOD establishments

			£ million
FY	*UK*	*Overseas*	*Total*
2006-07	7.6	0.5	8.1
2007-08	12.4	0.6	13.0
2008-09	13.3	0.6	13.9
2009-10	18.6	0.7	19.3
2010-11[1]	13.4	0.9	14.3
Total	65.3	3.3	68.6

[1] 2010-11 figures up until 31 December 2010.

Estonia and Latvia: Military Alliances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the UK's bi-lateral military relationship with *(a)* Estonia and *(b)* Latvia. [41817]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The bi-lateral military relationships with Estonia and Latvia are continuously assessed by the Ministry of Defence, and captured in briefing and policy documents as required by Ministers and senior officials. Estonia and Latvia are participants in the Northern Group initiative: as such, relations with both countries receive particularly frequent scrutiny. Moreover, the UK/Estonia relationship is strengthened by activities in Afghanistan where Estonian and UK forces serve alongside each other.

Northern Europe: Military Alliances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to assign assets to the Nordic Baltic Alliance. [41783]

Dr Fox: The United Kingdom has no established relations with any entity known as the 'Nordic Baltic Alliance'. It is assumed that the hon. Member refers to the Northern Group, a collaborative grouping of willing sovereign nations in Northern Europe that currently enjoys the participation of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden. The Northern Group does not require its participants to assign assets to it nor has any participating nation announced plans to do so. United Kingdom Ministry of Defence officials are engaged with their counterparts across the Group to identify opportunities for collaboration which offer clear mutual benefits.

Sweden and Norway: Military Alliances

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the UK's bi-lateral military relationship with *(a)* Sweden and *(b)* Norway. [41818]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The bi-lateral military relationships with both Sweden and Norway are continuously assessed by the Ministry of Defence, and captured in briefing and policy documents as required by Ministers and senior officials. Norway and Sweden are participants in the Northern Group initiative: as such, relations with both countries receive particularly frequent scrutiny.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

8. **Mr Spencer:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the electoral register. [42569]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. However, the Electoral Commission in its March 2010 report "The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain" found:

> "...it is likely that the accuracy of the registers remains broadly similar to past decades"

and that

> "...the major source of inaccuracy remains electors moving home and not informing the relevant Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)."

It is clear that more can be done to support accuracy. To this end, the Government have announced the implementation of individual electoral registration from 2014, which will ensure that only those entitled to vote will get on the register, so bringing greater protection against electoral fraud.

Prisoner Voting

Mr Marsden: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish the legal advice he has received on compliance with rulings of the European Court of Human Rights on prisoner voting. [42564]

Mr Harper: The Government do not disclose their legal advice. Disclosure of legal advice could prejudice the Government's ability to defend their legal interests.

The Government have requested that the court's judgment in the "Greens and MT" case be referred to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)—the highest tier of the ECtHR. If the Grand Chamber agrees to the referral, they will look again at the judgment and issue their opinion.

The basis of the Government's referral request is that we believe that the court should look again at the principles in "Hirst" which outlaws a blanket ban on prisoners voting, particularly given the recent debate in the House of Commons. The referral request also points out the need for clarity in the ECtHR's case law in this area.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has for prisoners with no fixed abode under his proposals to extend the franchise to certain prisoners. [41896]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps in relation to the European Court of Human Rights' judgments against the UK, and will reflect carefully on the points made in the House of Commons backbench debate on 10 February 2011 in deciding how to respond.

CABINET OFFICE

Government: Accountability

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to increase levels of transparency in Government decision-making in order to improve accountability to the public. [42563]

Mr Maude: Over the last 10 months, the Government have opened up a wealth of data for public scrutiny for the first time. These include: all central Government spending over £25,000 online on a monthly basis, providing details of over £80 billion of Government spending; organograms for all central Government Departments, with salary details for the most senior civil servants; and all new contract opportunities.

The data.gov.uk website provides links to released data which are in an open reusable form, and their regular updates.

These data allow the public to see how much has been spent with which suppliers and on what products, thereby providing an opportunity for challenge and questions.

As part of building the right to data, we are amending the Freedom of Information Act to ensure that public authorities publish datasets for reuse and do so in a reuseable format whether in response to requests, or through their publication schemes. We are also bringing forward plans for a new public data corporation. The corporation will, for the first time, bring together Government bodies and data into one organisation and provide an unprecedented level of easily accessible public information and drive further efficiency in the delivery of public services.

This will help to deliver better value for money in public spending and bring significant social and economic benefits by enabling businesses, non-profit organisations and others to exploit Government datasets for social and commercial purposes.

Gross Value Added: Glasgow

Mr Davidson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the gross value added of the City of Glasgow economy in the last 10 years. [41473]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning estimates of the gross valued added of the City of Glasgow economy in the last 10 years (41473).

Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) is available at several geographic levels. City of Glasgow is classified under the NUTS3 (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) geography. The most recent estimates available for the NUTS3 classification are for 2008. Data for the years 1999 - 2008, presented in £ million at current basic prices, are included in the table below.

	Total GVA Glasgow City (£ million)
1999	10,381
2000	10,749
2001	11,342
2002	11,995
2003	12,805
2004	13,415
2005	14,062
2006	14,993
2007	16,105
2008	16,888

Source:
Table 3.1, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/GVA_NUTS3.xls

Job Creation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 829W, on job creation, in which sectors *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time jobs were created in 2010. [42688]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the Answer of 16 February 2011, Official Report, column 829W, on job creation, in which sectors (a) full-time and (b) part-time jobs were created in 2010. 42688

Estimates of job creation are not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency have received jobseeker's allowance consecutively for *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months, *(d)* more than one year and *(e)* more than two years. [42976]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency have received jobseeker's allowance consecutively for (a) three months, (b) six months, (c) nine months, (d) more than one year and (e) more than two years. (042976)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of persons resident in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency claiming JSA by duration of claims. Data has been provided for January 2011 which is the latest period available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim residing in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency—January 2011

	Number
Claiming for over:	
3 months[1]	530
6 months	290
9 months	210
12 months	140
24 months	30

[1] Those claiming more than three months include all those claiming for over six months, nine months, 12 month and 24 months (and similarly for other rows).

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Personal Income: Surveys

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to conduct the next living costs and food survey. [42555]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking when the next Living Costs and Food Survey is expected to be conducted (42555).

The Living Costs and Food survey is conducted continuously. Interviews are spread evenly over the year to ensure that seasonal effects are covered. Results from the 2009 survey were reported on 30 November 2010, in the publication Family Spending. The 2010 survey report is expected to be published in November 2011.

Social Conditions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects of income inequality on levels of *(a)* well-being and *(b)* happiness. [41286]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has no active research on the effects of income inequality on levels of (subjective) well-being or happiness. Under the previous Administration, the Cabinet Office did publish a discussion paper on Life Satisfaction: the state of knowledge and implications for government (2002) which contained a cursory discussion of this issue. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has been commissioned to develop robust independent measures of subjective well-being and is carrying out a national debate to obtain the views of the public on the dimensions of well-being, which will inform the measures.

Unemployment

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of people who are unemployed in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [42033]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the percentage of people who are unemployed in (a) England, (b) the North West, (c) Cumbria and (d) Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. (42033)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of unemployment for all of the geographical areas requested.

As an alternative, in Table 1, we have provided the number and proportions of persons aged 16-64 resident in the above geographical areas claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for January 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number and proportion of people aged 16-64 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in England, the North West, Cumbria and Westmorland and Lonsdale parliamentary constituency, January 2011

	Number	*Proportion*
England	1,224,055	3.6
North West	183,557	4.1
Cumbria	8,367	2.7
Westmorland and Lonsdale	1,317	2.6

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Unemployment: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people who are economically inactive in Coventry; and if he will make a statement. [43575]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people who are economically inactive in Coventry. (43575)

The Office for National Statistics compiles estimates of inactivity for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The number of people aged 16-64 who were economically inactive and resident in Coventry was 57,000, based on the APS for the 12 months ending in June 2010, which is the latest period for which estimates are available.

As this estimate is for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, it is based on a very small sample size, and is therefore subject to a large margin of uncertainty.

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to paragraph 1.6 of his Department's paper on Project Merlin-Banks' Statement on lending, how much weight will be given on the performance metrics of chief executives for each bank; [42279]

(2) what the process was for the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the accountancy firm to work with the Bank of England on monitoring the lending targets set out in the Project Merlin agreement; [42280]

(3) what steps he is taking to increase lending to businesses from banking and financial services groups that are operating in the UK but which are not subject to the Project Merlin agreement; [42362]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the level of net lending to businesses by *(a)* Barclays, *(b)* HSBC, *(c)* Lloyds Banking Group, *(d)* RBS and *(e)* Santander in each year since 2007; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of such lending by each bank in each year to 2014; [42360]

(5) which companies are defined as small and medium-sized businesses, small and medium-sized enterprises or SMEs for the purposes of determining performance against the lending targets outlined in the Project Merlin agreement; [42359]

(6) how performance against the commitments he has received from banks on their customer service to small businesses as part of the Project Merlin agreement will be *(a)* monitored and *(b)* evaluated in respect of provision of (i) a free mentoring service, (ii) published lending principles, (iii) transparent appeals and (iv) improved access to finance; and whether he plans to publish such information. [42363]

Mr Hoban: As announced on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 310-13, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the UK's five major banks have stated a capacity and willingness to lend £190 billion of new credit to business in 2011. This includes £76 billion of new lending to SMEs, which is a 15% increase on the amount lent in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. For the purposes of the lending targets in Project Merlin, SMEs are broadly defined as businesses up to £25 million turnover.

The Bank of England will report, on a quarterly basis, the banks' total new lending to all businesses (and within that, to SMEs) under the definitions used for Project Merlin. The Bank of England will not be working with PricewaterhouseCoopers to monitor lending targets.

For the first time chief executive remuneration will reflect lending. The calibration of performance metrics of chief executive remuneration is a matter for each individual bank.

The Bank of England, in their January 2011 "Trends in Lending" report, estimated the average monthly aggregate levels of net lending to UK businesses by UK financial institutions to be: £7.9 billion in 2007, £3.9 billion in 2008, minus £3.9 billion in 2009, minus £3.2 billion in Q1 of 2010, minus £2.1 billion in Q2 of 2010 and minus £2.2 billion in Q3 of 2010. The Treasury does not make estimates of the levels of lending to UK businesses by individual institutions.

In addition to this commitment to increase lending to businesses, the Government continue to support SMEs seeking finance in a number of ways.

The Government have agreed with the British Bankers' Association that the Business Growth Fund will be increased by £1 billion to a total of £2.5 billion.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme will be extended until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 SMEs next year alone.

The Government are continuing the programme of Enterprise Capital Funds. We have increased our commitment by £200 million over the next four years.

The Regional Growth Fund will provide £1.4 billion of investment over three years to help those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private-sector led growth.

Finally, the Business Finance Taskforce, led by the British Bankers' Association, have agreed to 17 new commitments in order to improve the banks' relationship with their business customers and they will be evaluating the effectiveness of these measures.

Banks: Pay

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase transparency in the remuneration practices of banking and financial services groups that are operating in the UK but which are not covered by the Project Merlin agreement. [42361]

Mr Hoban: The Government have taken robust action to deliver increased transparency over remuneration. The new Financial Services Authority (FSA) disclosure regime came into force on 1 January 2011, covering large banks with operations in the UK. Banks will disclose details of the remuneration awarded to significant risk takers, showing the total amounts paid broken down into components including cash, shares, deferred and upfront elements. Disclosures will be made at least annually, starting in 2011 and covering the 2010 financial year.

Banks: Regulation

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he plans to take to ensure a competitive, sustainable banking sector. [42247]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Government are committed to a stable, predictable and competitive environment for financial services and one favourable to business more generally. The UK bank levy, a permanent tax that came into effect from the beginning of this year, has been introduced as a complement to wider regulatory reforms. The levy ensures that banks make a fair contribution reflecting the risks they pose to the financial system and wider economy and is intended to encourage banks to have less risky funding profiles.

The June Budget took immediate action to restore tax competitiveness with a phased reduction in the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 24% over the next four years.

At the same time, the UK is leading the argument in the EU and internationally for robust, internationally consistent regulatory standards that will benefit the economy in the long run. On 17 February, the Government published a further consultation "A new approach to financial regulation: building a stronger system" which expands on the proposals set out last summer to establish a new system of specialised and focused financial services regulators. It marks a key step in delivering the coalition Government's commitment to reform financial regulation by providing the Bank of England with control of macro-prudential regulation and oversight of micro-prudential regulation. These reforms will promote greater financial stability.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 3.6 of the Project Merlin-Banks' statement, on disclosure of the remuneration details of Executive Directors, what definition his Department uses for executive; and how many employees at each of the banks that are subject to the Project Merlin agreement he estimates earn more than the five highest paid executives who are not on the board at each such bank. [42275]

Mr Hoban: As part of Project Merlin, the banks have committed to disclosing details of the remuneration awarded to all Executive Directors on a named basis, and also details of the remuneration awarded to the five highest paid senior executive officers, on an unnamed basis. Executive Directors serve on the board of the company while senior executive officers are employees with significant managerial responsibility but who do not serve on the board of the company. The Government welcome and supports these commitments.

The Government have not made any estimates of the number of employees at a given company who earn more than the five highest paid Executive Directors.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he expects the total amount paid in fixed based salaries to employees at RBS and Lloyds Banking Group to increase or decrease as a proportion of total remuneration in the financial year 2010-11. [42276]

Mr Hoban: The Government's shareholdings in banks are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI is required to do this in a way that is consistent with the Treasury's aim not to be a permanent investor in UK financial institutions—the Government are clear that British banks are best owned and managed commercially. UKFI engages with the banks to ensure remuneration policies at Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) reward long-term sustainable performance and do not incentivise short-term excessive risk taking.

RBS and Lloyds will disclose information on their remuneration arrangements in their annual report and accounts, including a Directors' Remuneration Report.

EU Economic Policy

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) to which process the statement by the heads of state or government of the euro area and the EU institutions annexed to the conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011 refers; [41621]

(2) with reference to the statement by the heads of state or government of the euro area and the EU institutions annexed to the conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011, in respect of what Treaty will the President of the European Council undertake consultations to identify concrete ways forward; [41622]

(3) with reference to the statement by the heads of state or government of the euro area and the EU institutions annexed to the conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011, *(a)* by whom, *(b)* by which procedure and *(c)* under which legal base of which Treaty heads of state or government of the interested non-euro area member states will be involved in the process referred to. [41623]

Mr Hoban: A statement by the Heads of State or Government of the Euro area and the EU institutions annexed to the conclusions of the February European Council announced that further steps would be taken to achieve a new quality of economic policy co-ordination. This process will be taken forward through intergovernmental co-operation, which will be facilitated by the President of the European Council.

As the statement makes clear, the President of the European Council will consult member states and identify concrete ways forward that are in line with the treaties.

Financial Services: Education

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to provide support for education on financial services in schools, colleges and universities in each of the next four financial years. [35970]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognise the importance of young people developing the capability they need to make informed decisions about their personal finances. The current economic well-being and financial capability strand of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE), at key stages 3 and 4, provides a framework for students to learn about financial decision-making and how to use a range of financial tools and services. We announced, in the recently published Schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching', our intention to conduct an internal review of PSHE education. We want to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE.

There is no compulsory curriculum in further education colleges. It is for individual colleges to determine how they respond to local community needs. It is for the sector to determine its improvement needs and ensure that the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) supports them in meeting these needs.

The LSIS sees financial capability, numeracy and maths as key priorities for the sector. We are currently discussing with LSIS its 2011-12 programme.

Universities provide advice for students on managing personal finances as part of their support services. There is no specific allocation for this from the Department and it is funded through the block grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the tuition fees paid on behalf of the student.

More widely, we are assisting people to take charge of their finances at all life stages, through the establishment of the Consumer Financial Education Body (CFEB) which works with young people as well as adults.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken at *(a)* EU and *(b)* G20 level to implement the recommendations of Sir David Walker's report on the governance of banks and other financial institutions since November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [42274]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to improving transparency of the remuneration practices in the financial services sector and continue to drive the initiative in the international arena. The Chancellor has written to counterparts in the European Union calling for urgent consideration of Sir David Walker's recommendations.

Public Sector: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what savings he requires as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review from each of the Principal Civil Service pension schemes; [42262]

(2) what savings he requires as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review from each of the local government pension schemes in Scotland; [42263]

(3) what savings he requires as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review from each of the local government pension schemes in England and Wales; [42264]

(4) what savings are required in respect of the Department for International Development's Overseas Superannuation Scheme as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42755]

(5) what savings are required in respect of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Pension Schemes as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42756]

(6) what savings are required in respect of the Judicial Pensions Scheme as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42757]

(7) what savings are required from each of the Research Councils' pension schemes as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42758]

(8) what savings are required in respect of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42759]

(9) what savings are required from the NHS Pension Scheme as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42760]

(10) what savings are required from the Teachers' Pension Scheme in England and Wales as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42761]

(11) what total savings he expects to make in 2014-15 from increasing employee contributions *(a)* in each (i) funded and (ii) unfunded public sector scheme, excluding the armed forces scheme, and *(b)* in total; [42762]

(12) how the total required saving from employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review is to be apportioned between each public sector pension scheme; [42945]

(13) what savings are required from each of the police pension schemes as a result of the employee contribution increases announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; [42953]

Danny Alexander: The interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton, former Work and Pensions Secretary, sets out that there is a clear rationale for increasing employee contributions to public service pensions. The report found that the value of public service pensions has been increasing following a dramatic increase in life expectancy at retirement. Current pensioners are expected to spend over 40% of their adult lives in retirement, compared to 30% for pensioners in the 1950s.

Members of all of the public service pension schemes have benefited from the increase in the value of their pension and most of these extra costs have fallen to employers and taxpayers. Increases in employee contributions will rebalance contributions, and ensure a fairer distribution of costs between members and other taxpayers.

The share of the total savings to annually managed expenditure of £2.8 billion expected from each scheme has been distributed proportionately to the size of each scheme's paybill. The range of savings reflects the opportunity to agree some central parameters for the increase, for example protection of low earners, through a process of engagement with trade unions.

Breakdown of savings by pension scheme

	Savings range (£ million)
NHS Pension Scheme	1,262-1,312
Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales)	768-852
Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme	441-491
Police Pension Scheme	155-175
NHS Superannuation Scheme (Scotland)	137-143
Firefighters' Pension Scheme	33-37
Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme	85-94
Judicial Pension Scheme	13-32

The Local Government Pension Scheme (England and Wales) savings envelope is £900 million as agreed at the spending review; this is based on 3.2% of the pensionable paybill within the scheme in 2014-15.

Other schemes without a specific cash savings envelope include those that operate on a by-analogy basis and some other schemes. These scheme envelopes have been set based on the average increase in other public service schemes (3.2%):

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)
Health and Personal Social Services Northern Ireland Superannuation Scheme
Northern Ireland Teachers' Superannuation Scheme
Northern Ireland Local Government Pension Scheme
Police Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)
Police Pension Scheme (Scotland)
Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Scotland)
Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland)
Research Councils' Pension Schemes
UK Atomic Energy Authority Pension Schemes.

The Department for International Development Overseas Superannuation Scheme is a closed scheme with no contributing members.

Taxation

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* potential liability for tax of companies and organisations that will be unable to file their company tax return online from 1 April 2011 for reasons relating to the unavailability of relevant software. [42692]

Mr Gauke: All companies should be able to file their company tax return online from 1 April.

Over 30 commercial suppliers whose filing software has been successfully tested with HMRC are listed on HMRC's website. One supplier has announced that its fully upgraded software will not be available for 1 April, but has said that it will provide a choice of interim solutions for its customers by 1 April.

In addition, HMRC offers free online filing software suitable for smaller companies and organisations with less complex financial affairs.

Where a company has a reasonable excuse for missing its filing deadline it will not be penalised.

The change to online filing of company tax returns does not alter the way corporation tax is calculated or when it is paid.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received since 31 December 2010 requesting that the 1 April 2011 deadline for companies and organisations to file their company tax returns online be postponed. [42693]

Mr Gauke: No representations have been received for a delay to the requirement to file company tax returns online from 1 April. There have been a variety of representations both for and against deferring, from 1 April, the requirement to send accounts that are part of that company tax return as an iXBRL file.

Taxation: Business

Mr Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce cash flow drag for small and medium-sized businesses. [42357]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to helping small and medium-sized businesses manage their cash flow and to transforming the culture of late payment.

Firstly, we think that it is important that the public sector sets a strong example here; this is why through the prompt payment initiative, central Government Departments are required to aim to pay 80% of undisputed invoices within five days. To ensure the benefits of prompt payment are felt through the supply chain and benefit smaller businesses, all Departments have also included a clause in their contracts that requires main contractors to pay their suppliers within 30 days.

To encourage the private sector to come on board, we have also developed a prompt payment code with the Institute of Credit Management (ICM). Voluntary private sector take-up of this code has been strong, with Experian calculating that code signatories now represent over 60% of the total UK supply chain value.

To educate businesses on cash flow management, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has also produced with the ICM a series of 10 checklists on all aspects of cash flow management, which have been endorsed by all the leading representative organisations and which have had nearly 200,000 downloads. The guides can be found at:

http://www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm

The Government also recognise that invoice financing, including supply chain finance, can allow greater flexibility in payment terms and can constitute an important source of working capital for businesses. This is why in the "Financing Business Growth" Green Paper, published in October 2010, the Government committed to support and raise awareness of supply chain finance through bringing together potential private sector providers of supply chain finance and encouraging its use by local government.

The tax system already has inbuilt cash flow advantages for business because of the way payment dates are set out in legislation. In addition, HM Revenue and Customs are also able to provide temporary assistance, through time to pay (TTP) agreements, to viable businesses which are experiencing genuine difficulties in paying their debts.

Taxation: Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrues to the Exchequer from *(a)* taxation upon and *(b)* national insurance contributions paid by those in the photovoltaics sector in 2010-11. [42320]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Married People

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to reduce the couple penalty in the tax credit system. [36782]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to reforming the welfare system and ensuring policies are delivered in a fair way. The Government will introduce the universal credit over the next two Parliaments to replace the current system of means-tested working-age benefits, including tax credits, with a simple streamlined payment.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Benefit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the likely effect on household rental arrears and repossessions of the Government's proposal to cut housing benefit by 10% for those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months. [41995]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

We have decided not to pursue this measure.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 March 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

European Union Third Package

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the European Union Third Package has been transposed into domestic legislation; and if he will make a statement. [43060]

Charles Hendry: The EU Third Energy Package has not yet been transposed into domestic legislation. The Government intend to lay the relevant regulations shortly and to ask Parliament to make the regulations by affirmative resolution.

Green Climate Fund

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the financing of the Green Climate Fund. [43380]

Gregory Barker: Establishing the Green Climate Fund at COP 16 in Cancun was a key outcome from the UNFCCC negotiations. The operational details of the Green Climate Fund, including its board membership and financing arrangements, will be considered by a transitional committee. This committee has been tasked with designing the fund and making its recommendations to COP 17 later this year. Terms of reference for the committee were annexed to the Cancun agreement.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed biofuels plant near Avonmouth on levels of greenhouse gas emissions. [43020]

Gregory Barker: The planning appeal under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 into W4B Bristol Ltd.'s proposal for a biofuel renewable energy plant at the former Sevalco site in Avonmouth was determined by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), following a public local inquiry.

Sustainability criteria for bioliquids (biofuels used to generate electricity) will be implemented in the renewables obligation from next month, subject to parliamentary agreement. The sustainability criteria require the generator to produce auditable information which demonstrates that significant greenhouse gas emissions savings have been made and that land which is highly biodiverse or of a high carbon stock was not used. The bioelectricity generated is not eligible for support under the renewables obligation unless the bioliquid meets the sustainability criteria.

When the planning application was approved, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set an extra condition that the plant will only use bioliquids that meet the sustainability criteria, regardless of whether RO support is claimed by the generator.

Wind Power

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of electricity consumed by wind turbines when they are not generating electricity; and what consideration is given to such electricity consumption in determining the allocation of renewables obligation certificates. [42937]

Charles Hendry: Independent analysis commissioned by DECC estimates own power used by wind turbines ranges between 1.5% and 2.4%.

The renewable obligation is a generation-based subsidy. Renewable obligation certificates are therefore issued in respect of the renewable output of a generating station. However, the "renewable output" of a generating station is reduced to take into account "input electricity" if the input electricity it uses in generating the output electricity exceeds 0.5% of the total amount of the output electricity. This is set out in article 25(1) and (2) of the Renewables Obligation Order 2009.

Input electricity is defined in article 24(6)(a) of the Renewables Obligation Order 2009 as the total amount of electricity used by that station for purposes directly related to its operation, including for fuel handling, fuel preparation, maintenance and the pumping of water, whether or not that electricity is generated by the station or used while the station is generating electricity.

JUSTICE

Departmental Relocation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on his proposals for relocation of posts in his Department out of London by 2015. [42960]

Mr Blunt: In 2009 a total of 200 Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) posts were moved out of London. Around 240 further OPG posts are planned to move from London during 2011-12.

The approach to accommodating civil servants out of London (across all Government Departments) is being led by the Government property unit and we are working closely with it.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of her Department to Brighton; and if she will make a statement. [43478]

Damian Green: The Department has no plans to relocate staff to Brighton and open offices in Brighton.

Detention Centres

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been held in immigration detention for a period of over six months owing to an inability to remove them from the UK in each of the last three years; and what the longest period was for which such an individual was detained in each of the last three years. [43520]

Damian Green: Information on all persons detained for more than six months by reason of detention and on the length of detention of individuals is not held centrally and would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of people detained for six months or longer, solely under Immigration Act powers, as at the end of each quarter, to the last year for which data are available.

Persons recorded as being in detention[1,2] for six months[3] or longer, in the United Kingdom, solely under Immigration Act powers (including asylum seekers and children), as at end of quarter[4,5]

As at:	*Number of persons*
2008	
27 December	450
2009	
31 March	485
30 June	480
30 September	525
31 December	535
2010	
31 March	535
30 June	535
30 September	555
31 December	520

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five. Excludes persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

[2] Figures include dependants.

[3] Six months is defined as 182 days.

[4] Relates to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.

[5] These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics.

The Home Office publishes national statistics on length of detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's research, development and statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Detention Centres: Children

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in the immigration system in 2010. [43614]

Damian Green: The requested information is not available. The latest published figures show that 405 children entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers in 2010; however, some of these children may have entered detention more than once.

Provisional 2010 figures on persons entering detention are available in Table 3.4 (ii) of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary Fourth Quarter 2010, published on 24 February 2011, which is available from the Home Office's research, development and statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

On 16 December 2010, the Government announced the immediate closure of the family unit to children at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. A new non-detained family returns process was also announced to deliver the coalition commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes.

The UK Border Agency will now follow a new four-stage process focused on engagement with families during the decision-making process, giving parents the opportunity to engage in when and how they return, when they have been found to have no legal right to stay in the UK. The new measures will ensure a family's return home is safe and dignified. Most elements of this new approach will be in place from 1 March 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burundi: Overseas Aid

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department provides to Burundi; and what plans he has for *(a)* government-monitoring, *(b)* assisting in the repatriation of refugees and *(c)* providing aid in the areas of housing, health and education in that country. [41966]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £11 million to Burundi in the financial year 2010-11. As part of support to develop a poverty reduction strategy for 2011-14, DFID and other donors are helping the Government of Burundi put in place improved structures during 2011 to monitor and evaluate delivery. Because most Burundian refugees have now been successfully repatriated and reintegrated, DFID has recently phased out refugee assistance. DFID funding is focused on improving the delivery of services in health and education, increasing people's access to justice and supporting Burundi's integration into the East African Community (EAC).

From the financial year 2012-13, DFID will focus exclusively on supporting Burundi's integration into the EAC, which the UK assesses to be the greatest single contributing factor to economic growth in Burundi over the medium term. DFID therefore has no plans to provide support in other areas, which are being addressed by other donors.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to local industries and natural resources projects in Burundi. [42427]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £11 million to Burundi in the financial year 2010-11. This funding is focusing on improving the delivery of services in health and education, increasing people's access to justice and supporting Burundi's integration into the East African Community (EAC).

DFID's support to EAC integration will focus on reducing the time and cost of transporting goods, and eliminating barriers to trade. The increased potential for regional trade provided by the EAC, and the improved conditions created through DFID's support, will have a direct impact on the opportunities for local industries to flourish. DFID does not contribute directly to the management of natural resources in Burundi.

Developing Countries: Education

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's expenditure on overseas aid was spent on education in each of the last three years; and what the planned allocation is for 2010-11. [41802]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the Department for International Development (DFID) expenditure are published annually in "Statistics on International Development", which is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

and in the Library of the House. The relevant figures for each of the last three years are reproduced in the following table.

DFID expenditure—education sector

Financial year	*DFID bilateral (£ million)*	*DFID multilateral (£ million)*	*Total DFID (£ million)*	*Percentage of DFID programme*
2009-10	395	117	512	8
2008-09	451	117	568	9
2007-08	362	117	479	7

Expenditure figures for 2010-11 will be published later in the year.

Environment Protection: Innovation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what timetable he has set for the development of his proposed innovation prizes for pro-poor environmental technologies. [41856]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently assessing the evidence on innovation prizes and scoping out how we could support prizes for pro-poor environmental technologies. We will focus on technologies that could help poor people in developing countries to respond to the impacts of climate change and to gain access to low-carbon jobs, products and services. We aim to complete this work by mid-2011.

International Climate Fund

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what timetable he has set for the development of indicators to measure the effectiveness of the International Climate Fund. [41855]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The International Climate Fund (ICF) will enable the UK to help developing countries both adapt to the impacts of climate change and move on to a low-carbon growth path.

The Departments involved in the ICF—the Department for International Development (DFID), the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT)—in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), will develop methodologies and indicators to track the impact and value for money of the ICF. DFID's business plan for 2011-15 commits my Department to developing methodologies and indicators on adaptation, low-carbon development and protecting forests by June 2011. These methodologies and indicators will inform the monitoring and evaluation framework of the ICF. This will help ensure that we best focus our aid to effectively tackle climate change.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided for new TB vaccines in each of the last five years. [42329]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) awarded Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation a grant of £10.5 million for the financial years 2009-10 to 2013-14.

A sum of £4 million was disbursed in financial year 2009-10 and DFID expects to disburse £5.5 million in 2010-11.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

AIRE Centre: Finance

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department has provided to the Advice on Individual Rights in Europe Centre in each of the last five years. [42838]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has funded rule of law projects, run by the Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE), in both Serbia and Montenegro in the recent past and continues to do so. The Government attach great importance to the development of effective rule of law in the countries of the Western Balkans, in particular in the area of judicial reform.

In Montenegro, the FCO will have allocated £132,500 over the 2008-12 period to fund two AIRE projects on rule of law and judicial reform. In Serbia, the FCO will have allocated, over the period 2004-12, £449,256 for a further two rule of law and judicial training projects.

We estimate that over the last five years (2006-11) the FCO has provided, in total, approximately £455,500 in funding to AIRE.

Bahrain: Defence Equipment

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will investigate reports of the use by the Government of Bahrain of military equipment sold to them by UK companies; and if he will make a statement. [43572]

Alistair Burt: Export licenses are kept under constant review and every licence is scrutinised in light of changing facts on the ground. The Government have reviewed export licenses to Bahrain and any licences for equipment that could be used for internal repression have been revoked.

We are seeking clarification from the Bahraini Government over the potential use of British supplied equipment during these protests. However, to date we have seen no evidence of British supplied equipment being used by the Bahraini authorities during the recent protests.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has estimated the number of British citizens serving custodial sentences in prisons overseas. [42965]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes a snapshot twice a year of the number of British nationals in detention overseas. At 30 September 2010 the FCO was aware of 2,594 British nationals detained overseas (both in custody pending trial or deportation, and serving custodial sentences).

Burundi: Diplomatic Relations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for diplomatic engagement in Burundi. [42426]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office presence in Burundi is modest, consisting of one UK-based and two locally engaged staff. Our non-resident ambassador, based in Kigali, visits Burundi on a regular basis. The UK conducts much diplomatic activity through EU representation in Burundi, with our non-resident ambassador maintaining regular communication with other EU Heads of Mission in Burundi. Moving forward, one of the Government's priorities is to assist Burundi to integrate into the East African Community. The Government of Burundi have signalled that they intend to open an embassy in London, a move which we would welcome.

Burundi: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent support his Department has given to post-conflict reconstruction in Burundi. [42430]

Mr Bellingham: The UK has provided strong political and programmatic support to post-conflict reconstruction and the return of refugees in Burundi since the end of the civil war in 2003, including the work of the Department for International Development in the successful reintegration of over 500,000 refugees from Tanzania and other countries.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has complemented this through working closely with the international community to support Burundi in its return to stability. Through regular discussions in the UN Security Council, in particular around the renewal of the mandate of the UN mission in Burundi, and through active participation in the Peace Building Commission, the UK has promoted the protection of the human rights of vulnerable citizens, including returnees, and emphasised the importance of instituting an effective transitional justice mechanism. Our offices in Burundi and our ambassador based in Kigali have also encouraged the Government of Burundi to take these and other steps that we believe are essential in enabling Burundi to complete its post-conflict recovery. The Anglican Archbishop of Burundi recently praised the support of the Government for their engagement.

Costa Rica

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the San Juan river dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and *(b)* the potential effects of that dispute on biodiversity; and if he will make a statement. [43371]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have received a series of reports on the dispute from our ambassador in San José, from our permanent representative to the United Nations in New York (after his meeting with the Costa Rican Foreign Minister, Rene Castro) and from our embassy in The Hague, where the case has been referred to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In January the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the hon. Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), met the Costa Rican Foreign Minister to discuss the matter, and I, too, recently discussed the dispute with a delegation of Costa Rican parliamentarians.

I am aware that the recent dredging of the River San Juan could affect the flow of water, the wetlands and areas protected for wildlife located in the region, but no formal independent studies have yet been made on the impact. We have asked our ambassador in San José (who is also accredited to the Nicaraguan Government) to continue to monitor the situation closely.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42629]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office routinely benchmarks its employment policies to ensure compliance with obligations under employment law and to follow best employment practice. Suppliers are also encouraged to follow the principles in any outsourcing or contracting-out of work or functions.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available; [42382]

(2) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42398]

Alistair Burt: Approximately 5,000 UK-based staff currently work for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We also have approximately 10,000 locally-engaged staff working overseas. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his counterpart in Iran on the detention of Mrs Fariba Kamalabdi and Mrs Mahvash Sabet of the Baha'i faith. [42754]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by reports that Mrs Fariba Kamalabdi and Mrs Mahvash Sabet, two of the seven detained Baha'i leaders in Iran, were recently moved to less secure prison sections. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials raised this issue with the Iranian chargé d'affaires on 17 February 2011 and made clear that while continuing to disagree with their detention, their safety while in custody is of primary importance. FCO officials requested further details as to why they were moved, and sought assurances they would receive adequate protection.

Iran: Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the adoption of a resolution at the Human Rights Council on the state of human rights in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [42414]

Alistair Burt: We are extremely concerned about the human rights situation in Iran and want to see the UN respond to all serious human rights situations.

We supported the resolution on Iran human rights at the UN General Assembly last year and would give our full support to a resolution at the Human Rights Council as well. Such a resolution would require the majority support of Council members to pass.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Iranian counterpart on Iran's human rights record; and what response he has received. [43445]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not made representations directly to his new Iranian counterpart. However, the Secretary of State released a statement on 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 714-16, condemning the violent suppression of protests in Iran and raised his concerns over the human rights situation in Iran when addressing the UN Human Rights Council on 28 February 2011. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also raised human rights in a meeting with the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires on 17 February 2011. We will continue to take opportunities to highlight abuses where they occur, calling on Iran to fulfil its international and domestic human rights obligations.

Iran: Sanctions

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the UN Sanctions Committee on reports of the discovery of a consignment of weapons in Apapa, Nigeria, suspected of having been smuggled from Iran. [43397]

Mr Bellingham: The UK drew the UN 1737 Sanctions Committee's attention to the discovery of a consignment of weapons in transit through Nigeria from Iran in late 2010. The Panel of Experts consequently travelled to Nigeria in January 2011 to conduct an investigation. It received full co-operation from the Nigerian authorities in the conduct of its inspections. The case remains under review until judicial proceedings in Nigeria are concluded. The UK strongly supports the work of the Panel of Experts, whose role is to investigate and report on the full and effective implementation of sanctions against Iran. This incident highlights the UK and the rest of the international community's concerns that Iran continues to defy multiple UN Security Council resolutions and is seeking to foster instability rather than play a constructive role in regional affairs. This also demonstrates the effectiveness of the Panel of Experts' work in responding to such cases.

Japan: Whales

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on whaling ahead of the International Whaling Commission meeting in July. [42364]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Ministers and senior officials regularly raise our concerns about Japanese whaling activities with the Japanese Government, most recently in January 2011. Both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I raised it during our visits to Japan last year. The Japanese Government are in no doubt as to the strength of feeling in this country about all of Japan's whaling activity. We will continue to challenge Japan's position ahead of this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in July.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his objectives are for his Department's participation in the Quartet in the middle east peace process. [42194]

Alistair Burt: The UK is represented on the Middle East Quartet by the EU. It is primarily through the EU, but also through our strong links with other Middle

East Quartet members—the US, UN and Russia—that we focus our efforts in pushing for a more prescriptive approach to the middle east peace process.

Our goal, as stated clearly by the UK, France and Germany, following the 18 February 2011 vote on the Palestinian UN resolution on settlements, is to return the parties to negotiations on the basis of clear parameters. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in the House on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 716, the entire international community, including the US, should now support 1967 borders as the basis for resumed negotiations. The result should be two states, with Jerusalem as the future capital of both, and a fair settlement for refugees.

Mohammed Junaid Babar

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Administration on the case of Mohammed Junaid Babar; and if he will make a statement. [43373]

Mr Hague: The prosecution and sentencing of Mohammed Junaid Babar was a matter for the US authorities and their independent judicial system. However, given that Mr Babar's release has caused pain and distress to those who lost family and friends on 7 July 2005, the Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), raised the importance of providing an explanation of what lay behind this decision with US officials during his visit to Washington on 23 February 2011.

Palestinians: Embassies

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will upgrade the Palestinian General Delegation in London to a diplomatic mission. [42192]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of the steps that some other EU states have taken to upgrade the status of the Palestinian Delegations in their capitals. The Palestinians have made the same request to the UK, which we are considering in accordance with our long-standing support for Palestinian state building.

The Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 and the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 confer diplomatic privileges and immunities in the UK on accredited diplomats, their families etc. of other states.

As the UK does not recognise Palestine as a state, the Palestinian Authority in the UK is not entitled to the privileges and immunities provided for in the United Kingdom Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 and the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987. These Acts implement the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1964 in UK law, a convention that regulates the diplomatic conduct between states.

Tibet

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to review his policy on Tibet. [42977]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government recognise Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China. There are no plans to review this policy.

Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were discussed during his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [42747]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Yemeni Foreign Minister, Dr Al Qirbi, on 1 February 2011. During the meeting they discussed the importance of real progress in the Yemeni process for agreeing key electoral and political reforms—the National Dialogue—and objectives for the forthcoming Friends of Yemen meeting. They also discussed issues of mutual concern, such as the events in Egypt and international concerns in Somalia. The Foreign Secretary urged the Yemeni Government to practise restraint and pursue dialogue in the Yemeni handling of demonstrations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to continue to seek agreement on a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights in addition to a UK Bill of Rights. [42902]

Mr Swire: The Government will continue to examine how best to reach agreement on the issue of supplementary rights for Northern Ireland in addition to any process relating to a UK Bill of Rights.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Criminal Records

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether information on a criminal conviction of a member of the armed forces is automatically passed to the commanding officer concerned. [41021]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* Where the offence is purely of a service nature and dealt with by the service justice system, the commanding officer will be involved either in hearing the case summarily or being informed of the outcome of courts martial proceedings. Where a criminal conviction is incurred while off duty among the community, and dealt with by the civil authorities, the services are a notifiable occupation in accordance with Home Office circular 06/2006. The Service Police Crime Bureau is the recorded single point of contact for notification under the scheme and has in place a system whereby the commanding officer is formally notified of a conviction.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what further powers he plans to give to the Royal Military Police to investigate allegations of serious crimes by individual members of the armed forces. [41022]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* Within the Armed Forces Bill currently before Parliament there are two clauses that will amend the powers of the service police. The clauses will expand, while retaining the requirement for an application to a judge advocate, those premises the service police may enter and search, and will enable access to excluded material on premises other than relevant residential premises. These amendments will provide the service police with provisions that more closely reflect those that already exist for Home Department police forces.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on giving the Royal Military Police powers to overrule the ability of a commanding officer to prevent the investigation by that force of an allegation of a criminal nature against a member of the armed forces. [41023]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* Historically, the commanding officer has not had the power to prevent an investigation by the service police once commenced, though the commanding officer did have a power under earlier Acts to dismiss a charge at summary hearing. Since the introduction of the Armed Forces Act 2006, the commanding officer has a duty placed upon them to ensure the service police are made aware of serious offences. For other lesser offences, the duty to investigate rests with the commanding officer.

Armed Forces: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the savings to accrue to *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* the budgets of each of the armed forces attributable to (i) current and (ii) planned redundancies. [43461]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) announced significant reductions to both civilian and military personnel as part of the strategic defence and security review. Final savings figures on redundancies will depend on detailed implementation of these reductions, which will include early release and natural wastage, as well as redundancies. All three services are currently working through their redundancy processes and have yet to decide which posts will be made redundant. Estimates are subject to change and the MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

Armed Forces: Food

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost was of providing a meal to members of the armed forces *(a)* based in Britain, *(b)* serving in Afghanistan and *(c)* serving in another country in the latest period for which figures are available. [42921]

Peter Luff: Armed forces personnel are primarily catered for through outsourced catering, retail and leisure (CRL) contracts which are being introduced across military bases in the UK, Germany and Cyprus. Some 65% of armed forces personnel are catered for under these arrangements, whereby individuals pay for the meals they consume. Contractors are required to offer a core meal, covering breakfast, lunch and dinner, with set calorific and nutritional standards, in line with the prevailing daily food charge, which is currently capped by the armed forces pay review body at £4.13 per day. Service personnel can, however, choose an alternative retail offering if they prefer.

As part of a CRL contract, the contractor will customarily receive what is known as the service provision payment (SPP), which covers the costs of the civilian labour required to deliver the service, which the Ministry of Defence would otherwise have to provide. SPP varies from contract to contract, the competitions for which are run at individual unit, or group of units' level.

For armed forces personnel stationed in bases not currently covered by CRL arrangements, including those serving on operations and overseas exercises, daily messing rates (DMRs) apply. DMRs are the cost of ingredients based upon bespoke ration scales; these rates are adjusted quarterly to reflect food cost inflation and are currently set as follows:

Location	*Daily Messing Rate*
UK (£)	2.36
Falkland and Ascension Islands (£)	2.88
Afghanistan (Operation Herrick) (£)	3.89
Germany (on exercise) (€)	4.35
Cyprus (on exercise) (€)	4.30

These amounts cover the provision of three meals a day but exclude the cost of logistics, which for locations such as Afghanistan is significant—for financial year 2009-10 the cost of food provided to personnel in Afghanistan was £17.944 million, while the associated logistical operating costs excluding contractor's profit was £46.595 million.

The corresponding figures for non-deployed personnel not covered by CRL arrangements were £50.440 million for food and £15.994 million for logistical operating costs.

Ballistic Missile Defence: Costs

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of the NATO share of the contribution to the US missile defence system. [42436]

Mr Gerald Howarth: In November 2010 Alliance members agreed that they would develop a NATO ballistic missile defence capability, of which the US missile defence system will form an important part. The cost of developing the NATO system is estimated to be between €864-928 million over 10 years. The UK currently contributes 11.5% to the NATO security investment programme, from which this capability is funded.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the likely savings to his Department through contract renegotiations over the comprehensive spending review period; [38827]

(2) how much money his Department has saved as a result of contract renegotiations since May 2010. [38828]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently examining 130 contracts relating to the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) decisions, which is expected to increase to some 500 contracts in due course. We expect the process of renegotiating these contracts to take around 18 months.

The MOD has made estimates of the cost savings that will accrue from contractual renegotiations, and from other measures in the SDSR, for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these estimates have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice commercial interests. Final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trade unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety. I am, therefore, not prepared to release more detailed information at present.

India: Official Visits

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology had on the arms trade treaty with Ministers and officials of the Indian Government on his recent visit to that country. [43257]

Peter Luff: None.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 37369, on regulations removed by his Department, tabled on 26 January 2011 for answer on 31 January. [42699]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 75W.

TREASURY

Private Rented Housing: Fines

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer from the Secretary of State for Scotland of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 893W, on private rented housing: fines, what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the use of funds received from fines rendered against private landlords in Scotland. [43410]

Justine Greening: As the Secretary of State for Scotland replied on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 893W, I have recently written to the Scottish Minister for Housing and Communities on this matter. While policy on the Scottish private rented sector is a devolved matter for the Scottish Government, there are currently no plans to change the public spending treatment of fine income.

Public Sector: Land

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* monetary value, *(b)* quantity in hectares and *(c)* number of locations of surplus public sector land; and if he will make a statement. [33841]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made a recent estimate of the monetary value of surplus public sector land. Asset valuations are kept by each land owner. The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land (the Register) is maintained by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on behalf of the Department.

In mid-February 2011, the Register contained details of 909 sites covering 8,118 hectares owned by the participating public sector organisations. Individual locations can be viewed on the HCA website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/Surplus_public_sector_land

EDUCATION

Children's Centres: Finance

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has for the future level of funding to Sure Start children's centres; [27713]

(2) what plans he has for *(a)* short-term, *(b)* medium-term and *(c)* long-term funding for Sure Start children's centres. [27835]

Sarah Teather: Funding for Sure Start children's centres will be maintained in cash terms over the next spending review period, including investment in health visitors. Funding for Sure Start children's centres forms part of the new early intervention grant, which is worth £2,222,555,697 in 2011-12 and £2,307,196,996 in 2012-13. It is for local authorities to determine the most effective use of this money, but the grant ensures there is enough funding in the system to maintain the network of children's centres.

Free Schools: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications his Department has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* groups in (i) north Yorkshire and (ii) York to establish a free school. [37386]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has received one proposal to date from a group in north Yorkshire and one proposal from a group in York. No proposals have been received to date from individuals in either local authority area.

Schools: Admissions

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism he plans to put in place to handle complaints regarding school admissions after the implementation of his proposal to remove the requirement for local authorities to establish an admissions forum. [37962]

Mr Gibb: We believe that the vast majority of schools want to operate their admissions in a fair and open manner. Where there are issues, parents can, and do, discuss them directly with the schools themselves and this often resolves the issue before a formal complaint is necessary. Where informal dialogue cannot resolve the issue, parents and others can object about admission arrangements to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, who will independently review the matter. His determinations are binding on both parties. In future the Schools Adjudicator will consider complaints for all schools, including academies and free schools, ensuring that the route of formal complaint for parents is simpler.

Schools: Sport

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the status of existing agreements between his Department and school sport partnerships will be where funding for partnerships is withdrawn; and if he will make a statement; [37271]

(2) what the status of existing agreements between schools and school sport partnerships will be where funding for partnerships is withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [37272]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* School sport partnerships are groups of schools that work together on physical education and sport; they do not have separate legal status. The Department pays an annual grant with 450 secondary schools who agree to act as 'hubs' for the schools in a partnership and who receive additional funding for a 'partnership development manager'. The Department is in the process of finalising the grant for the financial year 2010-11 with the hub schools. This agreement will cover expenditure of around £114 million in 2010-11. The hub schools make subsequent agreements with the other schools in their partnership, on the basis of the Department's agreement with them. The Department wrote to the hub schools in October 2010 to say that the terms and conditions for this year would be changing, that schools would have new flexibility over how they spend the grant on PE and sport, and that funding beyond March 2011 was not guaranteed. The hub schools will have taken this into account in making further agreements with other schools. The Department has subsequently announced, in December 2010, that the final payment of school sport partnership grant in February 2011 will cover most costs through to the end of the summer term 2011. The additional flexibility that schools have in spending this considerable investment should mean that they can embed the good practice of the previous Administration's PE and sport strategy, as well as run more competitive sport for all pupils. The complexity, lack of transparency, and administrative demands on schools of this payment system set up by the previous Administration are part of the reason that we have decided not to continue with it. Schools will remain able to organise competitive sport in partnerships in future, if they wish.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average number of sports was to which pupils in *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* specialist sports colleges had access in each year since 2005. [39870]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* Information on sports provision has been published annually in the PE and sport survey. This survey shows the average number of sports provided in secondary schools in a school year. There is no breakdown for specialist sports colleges, or for secondary schools before 2006/07. This survey question does not cover the quality of each sport provided, nor the amount played during a year, nor the number of pupils who played.

2006/07: 21.7

2007/08: 22.3

2008/09: 25.0

2009/10: 25.6

Sure Start Programme: Walsall

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future allocation of funding for Sure Start services in Walsall South constituency. [26686]

Sarah Teather: Sure Start will be maintained in cash terms over the next spending review period, including new investment in health visitors through Department of Health budgets. Funding for Sure Start will form part of the new early intervention grant. There is enough money in the early intervention grant to retain a network of Sure Start children's centres, whilst ensuring all children's centres focus on supporting families in greatest need. Details about the early intervention grant were announced on 13 December as part of the local government finance settlement. The Secretary of State wrote to local authorities with details of this announcement. A copy of this letter, including indicative allocations to individual local authorities, has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on the estimated cost to the public purse for each Parliamentary Boundary Commission of conducting parliamentary boundary reviews every five years. [43379]

Mr Harper: I have not discussed this matter with the Electoral Commission. The Parliamentary Boundary Commissions are responsible for conducting parliamentary boundary reviews.

General Elections

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on the potential cost to the public purse of introducing the alternative vote electoral system for the 2015 General Election; [43378]

(2) what discussions he has held with the Electoral Commission on guidance for the counting by hand of ballot papers cast in elections conducted under the alternative vote system. [44016]

Mr Harper: The Government have not had discussions on the costs of implementing the Alternative Vote system or on guidance for the counting of ballot papers under the Alternative Vote with the Electoral Commission.

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many amendments were tabled to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill in each House; and how many amendments proposed by hon. Members who are not members of the Government were accepted. [42472]

Mr Harper: The Bill team's records show that 1,169 amendments were tabled during the passage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, 614 of which were tabled during the House of Commons stages of the Bill, 544 during the Bill's passage through the House of Lords and 11 during Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments and Lords Consideration of Commons Amendments.

The Government accepted two amendments tabled by Lord Rooker, which provided that the referendum would be held on 5 May 2011, subject to an alternative date, which must be before 31 October 2011, being set by the Minister tabling an Order. The Government also accepted: an amendment by Lord Rennard, which allows the Boundary Commissions to take into account existing constituencies when drawing new boundaries; an amendment by Lord Brooke, which allows the Boundary Commission for England to take into account the boundaries of the City of London; and an amendment by Lord Phillips enabling the chief counting officer to take steps to facilitate co-operation between the regional counting officers, counting officers and registration officers for the purpose of encouraging participation in the referendum.

In addition, the Government made a number of amendments in response to the recommendations of Select Committees and other bodies or to reflect debates on amendments tabled by non-Government Members of both Houses. These include changing the wording of the referendum question in response to recommendations made by the Electoral Commission, amending the rules on spending limits applying to the media and removing the Minister's power to modify the reports of the Boundary Commissions in response to proposals put forward by the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, and amending the boundary review process to include public hearings in response to debate on an amendment tabled by Baroness D'Souza, the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers. In addition, following discussions with Lord Williamson and other Opposition and Crossbench peers, the Government introduced an amendment providing for a review of the impact of reducing the number of MPs to take place after the 2015 general election.

Finally, having listened to the views of Members of both Houses, the Government accepted the principle in Lord Fowler's amendment that constituencies on the Isle of Wight should not include parts of the mainland. The Government therefore tabled an amendment to this effect at Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments.

Public Bills

Natascha Engel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the benefits to the legislative process of public reading stages for Bills. [41667]

Sir George Young: I have been asked to reply.

The public reading stage will improve public engagement with Parliament by giving individuals a chance to participate in the legislative process and improve the quality of legislation by taking into account the views of those who might otherwise not contribute. The current pilot public reading of the Protection of Freedoms Bill will provide the basis for a further assessment of the merits of the process.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proposals he has for the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum amount of time for public reading stages of Bills. [41668]

Sir George Young: I have been asked to reply.

Public reading stage will normally begin when a Bill is published and end in time for the points raised by members of the public to be taken into account during proceedings in the Public Bill Committee.

CABINET OFFICE

Small Businesses: Procurement

Mr Holloway: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to make Government procurement simpler for small and medium-sized enterprises. [42474]

Mr Letwin: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will permit UK airports to determine their own security procedures for air crew. [41507]

Mrs Villiers: Airports need to comply with the relevant European and domestic regulatory requirements, which currently contain a number of detailed processes. However, this does not prevent airports from determining some processes at a local level.

The Department for Transport is exploring how the UK's domestic requirements might be delivered via a more outcome-focused, risk-based regime, which would give airports more flexibility to determine local processes for delivering aviation security. A public consultation on this issue will be launched in due course.

Cycling: Brighton and Hove

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with Cycling England on the proposal of Brighton and Hove city council to remove cycle lanes funded by Cycling England. [42878]

Norman Baker: Neither the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), nor I have had discussions with Cycling England on the proposal of Brighton and Hove city council to remove cycle lanes funded by Cycling England, but I understand they are following up the issue with Brighton and Hove council.

Railways: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on new high-speed rail services. [38861]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Minister of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), met with the then Scottish Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson MSP, in November 2010 and discussed high-speed rail links to Scotland. HS2 Ltd has also had a number of meetings with the Scottish Government. I also have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on this issue.

Shipping: Oil

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents involving oil spillage during ship-to-ship transfers of oil off the UK coastline have been recorded in each year since 2000. [43261]

Mike Penning: Detailed records have been maintained of ship-to-ship transfers conducted outside harbour authority areas since 2008, which coincides with the beginning of the increase in this ship-to-ship transfer activity.

During that time, 767 ship-to-ship transfers have been undertaken in UK waters outside harbour authority areas, with no spills recorded.

Trams

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make an announcement on the tram-train pilot. [42980]

Norman Baker: I have been considering an initial business case for the Sheffield to Rotherham tram-train pilot proposal and expect to make an announcement shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies, interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42224]

John Penrose: No interpreters have been used by the Department in the last financial year.

The Department does not collate this information for its agency or arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010. [42306]

John Penrose: Since May 2010, *(a)* 48 actual and *(b)* 38.5 full-time equivalent staff have left the Department.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [42387]

John Penrose: As at 28 February the Department employed *(a)* 462 actual and *(b)* 447 full-time equivalent staff.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42403]

John Penrose: As at 31 May 2010 the Department employed *(a)* 481 actual and *(b)* 462 full-time equivalent staff.

Gambling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 was; whether his Department plans to provide funding for its continuance in the future; and whether he expects the gambling industry to fund future prevalence studies in addition to existing funding arrangements. [41758]

John Penrose: The cost to produce the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 and its distribution was approximately £560,000, funded through grant in aid provided to the Gambling Commission by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Following the 2010 spending review, all grant in aid funding provided to the Gambling Commission has been discontinued.

The Government intend to continue collecting and publishing information on gambling prevalence and problem gambling in future. The Commission is currently consulting on future methods and funding sources, including direct and indirect industry contributions.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* achievements and *(b)* costs of the responsible gambling strategy board and the mechanism for distributing funds raised voluntarily by the industry to fund research, education and treatment; if he will assess the effects of the board's work; and if he will make a statement. [41760]

John Penrose: The responsible gambling strategy board receives annual funding of £250,000 from the Gambling Commission. It has made steady progress on a national strategy for research, education and treatment, but it is too early to make a full assessment of the mechanism for distributing funds raised by the industry.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether an impact assessment has been conducted by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Gambling Commission of the potential costs to the industry of establishing a new problem gambling helpline. [41805]

John Penrose: Neither the Department nor the Gambling Commission have assessed the impact of establishing a new problem gambling helpline, because the costs will not be finally known until the tender is complete. The decision to tender for such a service rests with the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF), an independent charity accountable to its trustees.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Citizens Advice Bureaux: Wales

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of citizens advice bureaux that are likely to close in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Aberavon constituency as a result of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [42209]

Mr Davey: I can confirm that although a number of bureaux in Wales are currently expecting some cut to their core funding from their local authority, none are expecting to close as a result.

Many bureaux have yet to receive confirmation of their core funding but all are in contact with their funders and none of these are currently expecting any severe cuts.

In Aberavon constituency the core funding from Neath Port Talbot county council to the service is expected to be reduced by 1.7% (as yet unconfirmed), which reflects the cut which has been faced by the county across its budget. Neath and Port Talbot bureaux are currently undergoing a merger and see this as a way of strengthening their services for the future.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skill, pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 737W, on departmental procurement, for what reasons the information requested on single tender contracts is not held centrally. [43333]

Mr Davey: The Department's central finance system does not record this information. Payments are recorded on a transactional basis.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43214]

Mr Davey: Passes are issued to those who have a need to enter the building in order to ensure the efficient running of the Department. Some functions are provided by staff who are employed by a contractor rather than directly by the Department or an agency. Such persons include specialist consultants, building maintenance staff, IT support, restaurant staff, cleaners and security guards. The pass is only issued following security checks.

Drugs: India

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 381W, on trade: India, what evidence has been provided to his Department on the effects that the inclusion of data exclusively on patented and off-patent medicines in the EU-India free trade agreement would have on the supply of affordable generic drugs in *(a)* India and *(b)* other developing countries. [42982]

Mr Davey: Evidence of the likely impact of the potential inclusion of data exclusivity in the EU-India free trade agreement (FTA) on supply of affordable generic drugs has been provided to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) from civil society groups, including Médecins Sans Frontières and Oxfam, and representative bodies, including the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. BIS holds regular stakeholder consultations on FTAs. The Intellectual Property Office has written to both industry and the non-governmental organisations to request them to submit evidence. Officials have met with NGOs and industry to discuss a range of issues, including data exclusivity.

We have also examined relevant academic research and the EU and Indian positions. The European Commission has produced an impact assessment for this FTA which can be found at

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/june/tradoc_143372.pdf

The EU and India's negotiations are ongoing and we continue to welcome further submissions.

Export Credits Guarantees

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which contracts entered into by UK companies in *(a)* Bahrain, *(b)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(c)* Egypt, *(d)* Libya and *(e)* Saudi Arabia the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has supported in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of claims made on ECGD guarantees was in each such country in each such year. [43408]

Mr Davey: ECGD supported export contracts in each of the following countries:

	Market	*Exporter*	*Obligor*	*Project*	*Amount (£ million)*
2010-11	Egypt	Airbus S.A.S.	Egypt Air	Airbus aircraft	38.6
		Rolls-Royce plc		Rolls-Royce engines	6.3
2009-10	Bahrain	Airbus S.A.S.	Gulf Air Company	Airbus aircraft	41.5
2008-09	Egypt	Fira International Ltd.	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Furniture testing technical centre	0.3
	Saudi Arabia	Hawker Beechcraft Inc.	National Air Services	Corporate jets	4.9
		Fluor Ltd. and other UK exporters	Saudi Kayan Petrochemical Company	Kayan Petrochemical Complex	247
2007-08	Saudi Arabia	BAE Systems	Ministry of Defence and Aviation	Defence exports	750
2006-07	Saudi Arabia	BAE Systems	Ministry of Defence and Aviation	Defence exports	750
	Saudi Arabia	Foster Wheeler Energy Ltd.	Yanbu National Petrochemical Company	Yansab Petrochemical Project	44.8
		Fluor Ltd.			76.9

ECGD has not supported exports to the Democratic Republic of Congo or Libya in the last five years.

ECGD paid a claim of £4.1 million in 2008-09 in respect of an export transaction to Saudi Arabia. No claims have been paid on Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt or Libya.

Intellectual Property and Growth Review

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he expects to publish the final report of the independent review of intellectual property and growth; [41978]

(2) if he will consult on the findings and recommendations of the independent review of intellectual property and growth before issuing a response. [41982]

Mr Davey: The review is scheduled to report to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the end of April. The Government will then consider the appropriate course of action in the light of its recommendations.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which officials accompanied Professor Ian Hargreaves on his visit to the USA undertaken as part of the independent review of intellectual property and growth. [41988]

Mr Davey: Professor Hargreaves was accompanied by the head of the civil service team which supports the review and two other members of the team.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of Professor Hargreaves' visit to the US undertaken as part of the independent review of intellectual property and growth. [42002]

Mr Davey: The cost is approximately £7,600.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who Professor Ian Hargreaves met during his visit to the US undertaken as part of the independent review of intellectual property and growth. [42003]

Mr Davey: During his visit to the US, Professor Hargreaves met with members of the following organisations: Duke University; Electronic Arts; Facebook; Google; Harvard University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; the Motion Picture Association of America; the National Academies; NBC Universal; Neurosky; News Corporation; Novak, Druce and Quigg; Onlive; Osborne Clark; Pond Ventures; Quid; the office of the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Sony Pictures Entertainment; Silicon Valley Bank; SRI International; Stanford University; Time Warner; the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; the US Department of Commerce; the US Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator; the US Patent and Trademark Office; Viacom; Walt Disney Company; Yahoo!; Yelp; and Zynga. In addition, officials accompanying Professor Hargreaves also met with members of: Carnegie Mellon University; Greenberg Traurig; New York Law School; New Atlantic Ventures; Red Hat; and the US Copyright Office.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Agriculture

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the representation of the agricultural sector in local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [43553]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on local growth, the Government will normally expect to see business representatives form half the board, with a prominent business leader in the chair. We would also expect business board members to be representative of key sectors in their area but it will be for partnerships themselves to determine their priorities for representation of particular sectors.

Postal Services: Leeds

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the effectiveness of the operations of the new machinery in the Royal Mail sorting offices in Leeds. [41844]

Mr Davey: The effectiveness and performance of new machinery in sorting offices is an operational matter for Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

Radio Frequencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that sufficient radio spectrum is made available to support the development and deployment of machine-to-machine communications technologies for the purposes of applications including smart cities, advanced automotive systems and smart energy grids. [41768]

Mr Prisk: In the first instance, Ofcom has the powers to make spectrum available for use if that spectrum is not already available through the market. If private demand is not sufficient to acquire the spectrum, Government policy is that if spectrum is required to achieve Government policy goals, then Departments are expected to try to acquire this through the market. Should Departments be unable to acquire spectrum through the market, then there is a process in place which Departments can access.

Strode College: Prisons

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason the single contract held by Strode college in relation to 13 prisons was replaced by two separate contracts; for what reasons one of the contracts was not awarded to Strode college; and for what reasons no feedback was offered to Strode college on that decision. [42771]

Mr Hayes: This information is held by the Skills Funding Agency.

I have asked the chief executive of Skills Funding, Geoff Russell, to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Trade Agreements

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made on the liberalisation of trade in climate-friendly goods through the Doha Development Agenda Environmental Goods and Services negotiations. [43040]

Mr Davey: The Doha round remains the UK Government's overarching trade priority, and we will continue to work closely with our EU and international partners to try to secure a deal in 2011.

Since the Seoul G20 summit last year, the Doha round of trade negotiations have intensified. The liberalisation of trade in environmentally friendly goods and services is an important part of the negotiations, but progress has been incremental. Bilateral and small group meetings will take place this month to try to accelerate progress.

Venture Capital

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what future plans he has to encourage venture capital investments. [41752]

Mr Prisk: The Government's Green Paper "Financing Business Growth", published in November 2010, set out a comprehensive package of measures to support small business access to finance. This included £200 million for the Enterprise Capital Fund programme over the next four years to deliver £300 million of venture capital investment into small, innovative businesses in the UK. This additional investment will build on the existing Enterprise Capital Fund programme and the UK Innovation and Investment Fund of funds which are still investing; as well as venture capital and loan funds in the English regions totalling c.£450 million to December 2015.

"Financing Business Growth" also committed the Government to ensuring the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts continue to meet their objective of incentivising investment in small companies, in particular encouraging more business angels to utilise these tax incentives.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Her Majesty's Treasury are working together on the access to finance strand of the growth review, including exploring further measures to improve the contribution of venture capital to the funding of small, high-growth UK businesses.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will take steps to ensure that the published organisational chart for the House of Commons Service includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum. [43529]

John Thurso: The Commission publishes organisational charts of the House of Commons Service, and of individual House departments and PICT, in its annual report, available from the Vote Office and on the parliamentary website. There are currently no plans to alter the scope of these organisational charts.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the reform of the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement. [43464]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State recently attended the EU Agriculture Council where she met the Agriculture Commissioner and a number of EU Agriculture Ministers, to discuss reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP). The UK is continuing to work with the European Commission, Parliament and member states to ensure ambitious reform of the CAP which will deliver good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment.

Dairy Farming

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to develop potential for commercial success in the dairy industry; what recent discussions she has had with dairy industry representatives on her Department's support for the industry; and if she will make a statement. [41879]

Mr Paice: We are working with the UK dairy industry to increase its commercial success in several ways. During the last month I have met privately and publicly with farming and processor representatives. On Thursday 20 January, I chaired the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which includes representation through the supply chain from farming to retail and foodservice.

We have reinvigorated the Forum, challenging key representatives to address issues and opportunities through clear strategies, whether for the internal market or exports, to secure the long-term sustainability of the industry and of British milk supply

We are urging engagement in and supporting industry-led sustainability initiatives which should build upon the success of the Milk Roadmap.

We are engaged in negotiations on the Commission dairy proposal, which is a good opportunity to enhance producer bargaining power, but to ensure UK dairy's competitiveness we would prefer that this is in line with existing competition law.

We are working with BIS to bring in a Bill establishing the groceries code adjudicator to ensure that large retailers cannot abuse power by transferring excessive risks or unexpected costs onto their suppliers.

Fisheries: Casualties

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishermen have been reported as *(a)* lost and *(b)* injured at sea in each of the last five years. [41717]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

Fatalities and injuries to crew of UK-registered fishing vessels occurring at sea in each of the last five years that have been reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, are:

	Fatalities	*Injuries*
2006	13	48
2007	7	49
2008	5	49
2009	10	50
2010	5	36

These figures exclude fatalities and injuries which have occurred on fishing vessels in ports and harbours. 2010 data are provisional.

Food: Labelling

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps she has taken to improve the accuracy of food labelling; and if she will make a statement. [43458]

Mr Paice: The UK has been actively involved in EU negotiations on a new regulation for food labelling. Our aim has been to ensure there is clarity in food labelling for consumers, especially on country of origin labelling. A common position was reached on the text at the EU Agriculture Council in February. Discussions on this dossier are ongoing. Any changes to the labelling provisions would not be in place until early 2012.

In the meantime, we have been working with key food sector bodies to facilitate voluntary industry agreements to provide more and clearer labelling information.

Public Forest Estate: Access

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to take steps to ensure that *(a)* public rights of way in and *(b)* access for (i) walkers, (ii) horse riders and (iii) cyclists to woods and forests managed by the Forestry Commission will not be affected under any proposed ownership arrangements. [38806]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

SSSIs

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites of special scientific interest there are in forests in England owned by *(a)* the Forestry Commission and *(b)* private owners (i) in total and (ii) per 100,000 hectares of forest under each category of ownership. [39047]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* The Forestry Commission manages 67,615 hectares of sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) on the public forest estate in England. Of these, 41,406 hectares are classified as woodland SSSIs. The remaining 26,209 hectares comprise a wide range of open habitat such as moorland, heathland, bogs, fens, open water, coastal landslip and cliff.

The total area of woodland SSSI in England outside the Forestry Commission's management is 75,994 hectares.

The area of woodland on the public forest estate in England is 199,000 hectares and non-Forestry Commission woodland is 931,000 hectares. This means that there are approximately 21,000 hectares of SSSI per 100,000 hectares of woodland on the public forest estate and approximately 8,000 hectares of SSSI per 100,000 hectares of woodland under other ownership.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the Forestry Commission staff consultation referred to by the hon. Member for Wakefield on 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 929. [39141]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* I have placed a copy of the Forestry Commission's staff consultation in the House Library.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons *(a)* Rendlesham Forest and *(b)* Dunmid Forest have been designated small commercial forests in her Department's consultation paper on forestry; [41054]

(2) if she will provide a more detailed description of the model used to assess category of woodland referred to in her Department's consultation paper, the Future of the Public Forest Estate in England. [41207]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Public Forest Estate: Biodiversity

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to manage *(a)* existing rights to public access and *(b)* biodiversity in forests in England in respect of her proposals to sell land managed by the Forestry Commission in England; and if she will make a statement. [38856]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 9 February 2011]:* The consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Gangmasters: Licensing

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any companies which were compliant with Gangmasters Licensing Authority regulations were required to cease operations because they were unable to afford the cost of licensing in the last five years. [40602]

Mr Paice: Figures are not available on the number of gangmasters who cease trading owing to the cost of a Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) licence.

While the GLA keeps records of licence holders in the regulated sectors who do not renew their licence, including whether they have ceased trading, it does not collect information on the reasons why a licence is not renewed.

Special Areas of Conservation

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration her Department has given to the evidence and advice on the *(a)* Lyme Bay and Torbay and *(b)* Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound candidate special area of conservation. [42172]

Richard Benyon: The scientific basis for the selection of Lyme Bay and Torbay, and Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone as possible as special areas of conservation (SACs), were the subject of public consultation by Natural England, one of the Department's statutory advisers on nature conservation. Following this, Natural England advised DEFRA that these two sites met the criteria set out in the Habitats Directive for submission to the European Commission as candidate SACs. The advice was accepted by DEFRA and, following clearance within Government, the sites were submitted to the Commission in August 2010.

Decisions to submit candidate special areas of conservation (SACs) to the European Commission are supported by scientific evidence and advice provided by our statutory nature conservation bodies following public consultation. To help inform DEFRA of this process, its chief scientific adviser is commissioning an independent case study review to look at some examples relating to the selection of candidate/possible SACs. The review will consider the following case studies: Lyme Bay and Torbay, and Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone candidate SACs, and Prawle Point to Start Point possible SAC. The case study review will look at the evidence, advice and processes, as well as the Government's evaluation of such information.

Supermarkets: Competition

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has met the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss her proposals to establish a groceries code adjudicator. [43571]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with her opposite number in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a range of topical issues, which includes the establishment of a groceries code adjudicator to monitor and enforce the groceries supply code of practice.

The Secretary of State has not discussed the specific powers and functions of the groceries code adjudicator, which were the subject of a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills consultation exercise last year. The Government published their response to the consultation on 3 August 2010, announcing their decision on these powers and functions.

Trapping

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 710W, on trapping (1) what the outcome was of the 39 of the 88 animals used in the trial that were not injured or killed; [42806]

(2) how many animals of each species were used in her Department's trial; how many were used *(a)* in pen trials and *(b)* in field work; and what the outcome was for each of these animals. [42807]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* It would not be appropriate to release results or partial results of the research project "Determining the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales" prior to the project being peer-reviewed and finalised.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations his Department introduced between 22 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42089]

Chris Grayling: The information is contained in the following table:

SI number	*SI title*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*
2010/2818	The Rate of Bereavement Benefits Regulations 2010	22 November 2010	29 November 2010	1 November 2011
2010/2835	The Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2010	24 November 2010	30 November 2010	1 April 2011
2010/2862	The Disabled People's Right to Control (Pilot Scheme) (England) Regulations 2010	29 November 2010	12 October 2010	13 December 2010 1 March 2011 1 April 2011
2011/100	The Social Fund Maternity Grant Amendment Regulations 2011	19 January 2011	20 January 2011	24 January 2011
2011/228	The Employment and Support Allowance (Limited Capability for Work and Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	8 February 2011	16 February 2011	28 March 2011

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bids for Work Programme prime contracts he has received for each contract package area. [42823]

Chris Grayling: The deadline for bidding organisations to submit tenders for the Work Programme was 10am on 14 February 2011. The Department for Work and Pensions has received 177 tenders from 30 organisations.

The following table gives details of the contract package areas and the number of tenders received.

Contract package area (CPA)	*Contract package area name*	*Tenders received*
CPA 1	East of England	9
CPA 2	East Midlands	9
CPA 3	London (1)	8
CPA 4	London (2)	11
CPA 5	North East	8
CPA 6	North West (1)	12
CPA 7	North West (2)	13
CPA 8	Scotland	7
CPA 9	South East (1)	10
CPA 10	South East (2)	10
CPA 11	South West (1)	10
CPA 12	South West (2)	12
CPA 13	Wales	7
CPA 14	West Midlands (1)	12
CPA 15	West Midlands (2)	6
CPA 16	Yorkshire and the Humber (1)	13
CPA 17	Yorkshire and the Humber (2)	12
CPA 18	Yorkshire and the Humber (3)	8
Total		177

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of tenants of working age in receipt of housing benefit who were under-occupying their social rented property by *(a)* one bedroom or more, *(b)* two bedrooms or more and *(c)* three bedrooms or more in each region in the latest period for which information is available. [42777]

Steve Webb: On 16 February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an impact assessment entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment included estimates of the number of working-age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, under-occupying their home by one bedroom or more in each region and who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in social-rented housing.

The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

The family resources survey provides information on the characteristics of housing benefit recipients under occupying their accommodation. However, the survey is not large enough to yield reliable estimates of the number of tenants of working age in receipt of housing benefit who were under-occupying their social-rented property by two bedrooms or more (part b) and three bedrooms or more (part c) in each region.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of widows and widowers in social rented housing who are of working age and on housing benefit and who were under-occupying their home in the latest period for which figures are available. [42778]

Steve Webb: The family resources survey provides information on the characteristics of housing benefit recipients under occupying their accommodation. However, the survey is not large enough to yield reliable estimates of the number of widows and widowers living in social-rented housing who are of working age, in receipt of housing benefit and who are under-occupying their home.

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The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 34 of his Department's two-year review of the local housing allowance, page 111, showing that 45% of non-student, single, under 25s in the private rented sector, with no children and who have not declared any housing benefit receipt live in shared accommodation, what the equivalent figure is for people aged 25 to 34. [42991]

Steve Webb: It is estimated that 41% of non-student, single people, aged 25-34, who are renting in the private sector, have no children and have not declared housing benefit receipt are living in shared accommodation.

Notes:

1. Shared accommodation refers to households where there is no clear head, for example unrelated adults sharing a house or flat on an equal basis. This analysis therefore excludes other forms of sharing, for example lodging in an owner-occupied house, or adult children living with their parents.

2. Housing benefit receipt has been analysed at household level, so some individuals not claiming housing benefit, but sharing accommodation with benefit claimants, have been treated as if they are in receipt. Only a small proportion of non-recipients share accommodation with claimants, so this does not have a significant impact on the estimate.

3. "Private renting" includes both furnished and unfurnished tenancies, but excludes rent free cases.

4. The family resources survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 23,000 households in Great Britain. Data for 2008-09 were collected between April 2008 and March 2009.

5. The family resources survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

6. The figures from the family resources survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the family resources survey to Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

7. Figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

DWP analysis of 2008-09 family resources survey

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the savings to his Department from the changes to rules on properties in respect of which housing benefit claimants aged between 25 and 35 are entitled to claim benefit in each of the next four financial years. [43449]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

Estimated savings from extending the shared accommodation rate to age 35

	Estimated savings (£ million, cash)
2011-12	0
2012-13	130
2013-14	225
2014-15	215

Notes:

1. Figures are in cash terms, rounded to nearest £5 million.

2. Estimates are as presented in the 2010 spending review.

3. The shared accommodation rate currently applies to single childless claimants under 25. In the 2010 spending review it was announced that from 2012 it will apply to people aged up to 35. There are exemptions for disability and recent care leavers, which will continue to apply.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of housing benefit in *(a)* Enfield North constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Enfield and *(c)* London received over £400 a week in the latest period for which figures are available. [41607]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at parliamentary constituency level. The information for the borough of Enfield and London is presented in the following table.

Housing benefit recipients in October 2010

	Numbers who received more than £400 per week
London	9,240
Enfield	70

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE)

Jobcentres: Sanctions

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1193W, on jobcentres: sanctions what criteria Jobcentre Plus applies to determine those cases which are referred to decision makers for further investigation; [36455]

(2) what factors are considered by the decision makers in reviewing cases of entitlement to jobseeker's allowance which are referred to them for further consideration. [36467]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to reply to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions regarding the criteria Jobcentre Plus applies in order to determine which cases are appropriate for further investigation and the factors considered by the Jobcentre Plus Decision Maker to determine entitlement and whether a sanction is appropriate. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Where an Employment Adviser considers a doubt has arisen regarding an act or omission of a customer which might affect their prospects of employment the advisor will investigate further and ask a Decision Maker, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, to consider whether any action is appropriate. This might include consideration of entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance or the imposition of a benefit sanction.

Doubts can arise for a variety of reasons and from a variety of sources including the customer, employers or training providers. Doubts include leaving a job voluntarily; being dismissed from employment due to misconduct; failing to attend an advisory interview; refusing employment; and failure to attend a training scheme or employment programme. The doubt will be discussed with the customer.

Where we have doubts there are distinct criteria to determine whether customer's entitlement has ceased or a sanction is appropriate. The criteria are set out in the Decision Makers Guide which is published and available on-line from the Department of Work and Pensions. This advice is also reflected in detailed staff guidance to ensure Jobcentre Plus staff are aware of the action to take when such doubts come to their attention.

The Decision Maker's role is to consider the specific circumstances of the claim in the light of all relevant legislation and case law, taking account of all the individual circumstances of the case and any available information and evidence including that provided by the customer. Where appropriate the Decision Maker will request further information on which to base their decision.

Examples of the factors used by Decision Makers include the customer's reasons for failing to apply for or accept a suitable vacancy; the requirements of a particular vacancy; a customer's religious or conscientious objection; and the impact of caring responsibilities. The Decision Maker will also give regard to the customer's comments in identifying whether the customer might have good cause for their action or omission. Similarly, the Decision Maker will consider whether a customer had just cause for leaving previous employment voluntarily (i.e. whether they acted reasonably in leaving that employment, or whether the circumstances of their departure justify reliance on public funds).

I attach a link to the Decision Makers Guide which contains the advice to Decision Makers when dealing with questions of entitlement and sanction.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/

Pension Credit

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of not increasing the qualifying age for pension credit in line with the state pension age. [41123]

Steve Webb: Under existing legislation the qualifying age for pension credit was set to increase from 60 to 65 by 2020, along with women's state pension age under the Pensions Act 1995. The difference to the public purse of continuing to follow this timetable for the qualifying age for pension credit rather than the one proposed in the Pensions Bill 2011 is estimated at £1.7 billion in 2010-11 prices between 2016-17 and 2025-26.

Pensions

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effect on the monetary value of private pensions of the level of inflation. [42694]

Steve Webb: Like other forms of income and/or savings, the value of private pensions can be eroded over time by inflation.

Legislation under the Pension Schemes Act 1993 and the Pensions Act 1995 provides a measure of protection against the effect of inflation on private sector occupational pensions by requiring schemes to increase benefits under defined benefit arrangements year on year, both for pensions in payment and for deferred members who have left the scheme but have yet to start drawing a pension from it.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is required to publish an order each year setting out the percentages to be used to calculate the minimum revaluation of deferred pensions and minimum increases to pensions in payment. By law, these percentages have to be based on the percentage increase in the general level of prices in Great Britain, as determined by the Secretary of State. The latest order was laid before Parliament on 9 December 2010 and came into force on 1 January 2011.

From this year increases going forward have been calculated using the consumer prices index (CPI). Previous orders used only the retail prices index (RPI) as the basis for calculating the statutory minimum increases.

This legislation does not apply to personal pensions or defined contribution occupational pensions. In these schemes the individual member can choose the level of inflation protection.

The impact of inflation on the pensions of individuals will depend on their exact circumstances, the amount of increase provided by the scheme and the level of inflation over the long term, but for the purpose of illustration the occupational pension for a single pensioner in receipt of the median occupational pension of £70 per week would increase to £72.17 using CPI inflation as at September 2010.

Pensions: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Bradford East constituency and *(b)* Bradford district receive the state pension. [43254]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

	Total number of state pension recipients
Bradford East parliamentary constituency	13,450
Bradford local authority	79,290

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
3. State pension figure provided is the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
4. From April 2010, the age at which women reach state pension age started to gradually increase from 60. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.
5. These data are available on the Departments' tabulation tool at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at May 2010.

Social Fund: Television

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 683W, on Social Fund: television, how many Social Fund *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans and *(c)* community care grants over the value of (i) £500 and (ii) £1,000 were made in (A) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and (B) Scotland in each of the last five years. [43409]

Steve Webb: The available information is given in the following table.

Number of initial awards made in Scotland in each of the last five years for budgeting loans, crisis loans and community care grants

	Initial awards made over £500			Initial awards made over £1,000		
Financial year	*Budgeting loans*	*Crisis loans*	*Community care grants*	*Budgeting loans*	*Crisis loans*	*Community care grants*
2005-06	32,410	2,030	12,100	[1]—	[1]—	2,500
2006-07	38,050	3,030	12,560	1,100	190	3,060
2007-08	30,660	2,460	12,400	1,280	190	3,450
2008-09	25,590	2,650	11,810	[1]—	210	2,960
2009-10	25,470	4,040	12,750	[1]—	310	2,940

[1] Less than five awards were made.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the numbers given do not include awards processed clerically which had not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
2. The number of initial awards is not available by constituency, but only by Government Office Region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area.
3. Scotland has been interpreted as the Government Office Region of that name.
4. Numbers are for initial awards only and do not include awards made after review.
5. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest ten.
6. During 2006-07 and 2007-08 the Budgeting loan baseline amount was at a level which gave a maximum amount which was above £1,000 (for single people or couples with children) in later years this has not been the case.
7. In 2006-07 the maximum loan amount was increased from £1,000 to £1,500 therefore allowing applicants to be awarded loans over the £1,000 level.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, and Budget Management Information System.

Social Security Benefits

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place to assist those who experience delays in benefit payments. [42596]

Steve Webb: The Secretary of State can make a discretionary payment, termed an "Interim Payment", when there is a delay in payment and a customer is suffering hardship and it is impracticable for the benefit claim to be decided and paid in the normal way. In addition, a Social Fund Crisis Loan may be available to prevent serious risk to health or safety of anyone in a crisis.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to local authorities wishing to pursue *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* A2 nationals and *(c)* A8 nationals who are suspected of housing benefit or council tax fraud. [42410]

Steve Webb: The fraud procedures and instructions guidance provides guidance for effective counter-fraud investigation to all staff who work on counter fraud activity in DWP and local authorities. This guidance is available on-line (via secure networks) to all local authorities free of charge.

All claimants, irrespective of nationality, who are suspected of housing benefit or council tax fraud are subject to procedures outlined in this guidance, including A2 and A8 nationals who may be entitled to UK benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken was to process notification of changes of circumstances of benefit claimants *(a)* resident in Livingston constituency and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [42981]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what average time was taken to process notification of changes of circumstance of benefit claimants (a) resident in Livingstone constituency and (b) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

Jobcentre Plus monitor the average time taken to process changes of circumstance via internal measurement indicators using an Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) for each benefit.

AACT measures the average number of working days we take to process changes of circumstance.

You have asked for details for claimants resident in Livingstone constituency. These are processed by Bathgate Benefit Delivery Centre.

The table below shows the latest AACT performance for changes of circumstance at both National level and for those processed in Bathgate. We have provided data by month in the current financial year (2010-11).

Changes of circumstance, average actual clearance times

Working days

	2010									2011	
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Year to date*
National											
Employment and Support Allowance	3.4	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.0	4.1	3.2
Incapacity Benefit	4.5	7.1	4.9	3.3	4.2	4.8	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.9	4.3
Income Support	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0
Jobseeker's Allowance	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.9	4.2	3.2
Bathgate BDC											
Employment and Support Allowance	2.3	2.0	1.8	3.7	1.7	2.7	3.4	2.4	2.9	3.4	2.7
Incapacity Benefit	1.3	1.4	3.5	2.0	1.4	17.3	1.3	5.3	1.1	1.9	3.4
Income Support	3.8	2.5	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.9	2.7	2.1	2.8	3.1
Jobseeker's Allowance	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.2	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.4	5.1	2.8

Source:
Management Information System Programme (MISP)
MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's code of practice.

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken on the merits of using the consumer prices index in uprating benefits for people under pensionable age. [42873]

Steve Webb: The Consumer Prices Advisory Committee (CPAC) report released on 3 November 2010 recommended that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) should consider including owner-occupiers' housing costs in the consumer prices index (CPI). This proposed expanded index is referred to as 'CPIH' in the report.

Two potential approaches to the inclusion of owner-occupiers' housing costs are recommended for development, and the report suggests a programme of work that will take two years to complete.

We will monitor this work and assess the merits of using CPIH for uprating benefits once it is further developed.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefits and pensions enquiries and applications were made by people aged 65 or over in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [43127]

Steve Webb: The agency does not currently capture pensions enquiries information. In terms of benefits paid, as at May 2010 out of a total of 18.8 million customers receiving DWP benefits, 10.9 million are aged 65 or over (58%).

Source:

May 2010 latest published Work and Pensions longitudinal study

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the merits of reviewing the statutory standards in respect of overcrowding in social housing. [42867]

Andrew Stunell: We published on 28 February a summary of responses to our consultation on social housing reform, which includes an assessment of responses to questions on overcrowding. In the light of that consultation, we are proceeding with major reforms to the way social housing is managed, providing local authorities and social landlords with greater freedoms and flexibilities which will enable them to address overcrowding more effectively. The case for reform of overcrowding standards will be considered in the light of the impact of these wider reforms.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to increase the provision of family-sized affordable homes. [42868]

Grant Shapps: The number and size of affordable rent homes delivered will be dependent on agreements between providers and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

We expect providers of affordable housing and local authorities to work closely to identify the type of provision that will best meet local needs, including, where appropriate, family-sized housing.

In June 2010 we removed the national minimum density target from Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing), to give local authorities the flexibility to set density ranges that suit the local needs in their areas - particularly for family houses.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of New Homes Bonus will be payable for purpose-built student accommodation. [43574]

Grant Shapps: New Homes Bonus will link the level of grant for each additional home by measuring the change on the annual council tax base form submitted by all billing authorities in England in October each year.

Any new homes built and properties brought back into use, including student accommodation, which are recorded in the top line of the form, will be included in the bonus calculations. This will help meet a wide range of housing demands which are appropriate to local circumstances.

Further details of the final scheme design along with provisional allocations can be viewed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

Allotments

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the extent to which provision of allotments meets demand *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region. [43457]

Andrew Stunell: Central Government do not hold information on allotment waiting lists. The latest independent survey of principal local authorities in England on allotment waiting lists, by "Transition Town West Kirby" with the "National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners" in 2010, reported a waiting list of 94,124 people for 158,796 plots. DCLG is working with organisations such as "The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens" to promote non-statutory allotment space for food growing. A link to the survey is available from the "National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners'" website at:

www.nsalg.org.uk

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda for the next meeting of the cross-Government group working to tackle anti-Semitism; on what date he expects the meeting to take place; and if he will make a statement. [41803]

Andrew Stunell: The next cross-Government working group meeting to tackle anti-Semitism will take place in June, date to be set and the agenda for that meeting is yet to be finalised. However, the last group met on 22 February 2011 and today I have placed copy of that agenda in the Library of the House.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords, *(c)* the Board of Deputies of British Jews and *(d)* members of the public on the incidence of anti-Semitism; what response each received; and if he will make a statement. [41804]

Andrew Stunell: The Department of Communities and Local Government regularly receives representations from hon. Members of both Houses, representative organisations and members of the public of incidences of anti-Semitism. The Department also receives regular updates from the Community Security Trust on incidents of anti-Semitism and through the cross-Government working group meets representatives of the Community Security Trust, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council on a quarterly basis. The Government's latest response to tackling anti-Semitism can be found in the 'Three Years on Progress Report' which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/antisemitismresponse

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the achievements of the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [R] [41989]

Andrew Stunell: The achievements of the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism can be found at the front of the Government's recently published "Three Years on Progress Report". A copy of the report is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/antisemitismresponse

Biofuels: Avonmouth

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the construction of a proposed biofuels plant near Avonmouth. [43550]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State's decision on this proposal was issued on 10 February and took account of the Inquiry Inspector's report dated 20 October 2010. Having considered the evidence put before the Inquiry, the Inspector was satisfied that an environmental statement was not required. The Secretary of State took into account the conclusions reached by the Inspector on environmental matters and all post-inquiry representations on the subject.

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 207-8W, on community development, what consultations his Department undertook before identifying the subjects for the case studies, including the work of the big society vanguards; and when the case studies will be published. [40164]

Greg Clark: The Government have invited the public to come forward with innovative ideas for improving their communities and the support they need to put them into practice.

These illustrations of active local engagement will continue to be shared via departmental websites, the barrier busting website and through a range of traditional communications channels so that they are accessible to a wide range of communities across Britain.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010. [42307]

Robert Neill: Between 1 May 2010 and 31 January 2011 266 people, 258.5 full-time equivalent staff, have left the Department for Communities and Local Government. Figures provided are for employees and include permanent, fixed-term contract, casual and staff loaned from other Government Departments and paid for via DCLG payroll.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [42388]

Robert Neill: As at 31 January 2011 the Department for Communities and Local Government employed 2,105 actual staff, 2,035.1 full-time equivalent. All data are compiled as at the end of the month and the latest data available are for 31 January 2011. These figures also include 102 staff who left the Department as at close of business 31 January 2011.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42404]

Robert Neill: As at 31 May 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government employed 2,108 staff, 2,046.2 full-time equivalent.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies, interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42223]

Robert Neill: In the last financial year—2009-10—the Department spent £3,003.45 on interpretation, all of which was for sign language interpretation. Details of the actual number of interpreters used are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department does not have any civil servants employed specifically as language interpreters.

Information on the Department's arm's length bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harrow East of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 813W, on European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company, if he will place in the Library a copy of the full unredacted invoice. [36943]

Robert Neill: The list placed in the Library showed all the information relevant to the question asked by the hon. Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman) on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 813W. I have placed in the Library of the House a copy of the invoice with only the names of individuals redacted. None of the items listed under 'Estimates of other work below' were authorised by the Department and the charges were disputed. The contract with the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company has now been terminated, as I announced to the House on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 141WS, and with the agreement reached over termination all issues concerning the company's provision of consultancy days have effectively been resolved.

Housing: Owner Occupation

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research his Department has commissioned on links between home ownership and social mobility. [42595]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not commissioned any research on links between home ownership and social mobility since publishing a report entitled "New Horizons Research Programme: Social Mobility And Home Ownership: A Risk Assessment" in 2007. Copies of this report are available from the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/newhorizonsresearch

Notwithstanding, I believe that housing is crucial in removing some of the barriers to social mobility, which is why the new Government are introducing programmes like the new national home swap scheme.

Localism

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to publish the report by the Minister of State responsible for decentralisation to the Prime Minister on localism and decentralisation; and if he will make a statement. [43163]

Greg Clark: "Decentralisation and the Localism Bill: An essential guide", published in December 2010, makes clear that we will issue a progress report by summer 2011 that sets out what each Department has done to decentralise. The guide can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1793908.pdf

Properties at Risk

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* powers are available to and *(b)* procedures are followed by local authorities to make properties at risk structurally sound. [43258]

Robert Neill: Local authorities have powers under sections 77 and 78 of the Building Act 1984 to require building owners to remedy structural defects in buildings, or alternatively to demolish them. Under section 77 the local authority must apply to the magistrates court to make an order for these purposes, and under section 78 may serve a notice directly on the owner. If the building owner does not take action as required, the local authority may do so itself and recover the cost from the building owner.

Local Government: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of promoting European Local Democracy Week in 2011; and what the cost to the public purse was in each previous year for which figures are available. [41904]

Robert Neill: We have made no such estimates, nor is information held centrally about the costs to the public purse of earlier European Local Democracy Weeks.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Government funding is available to public bodies and other organisation to promote European Local Democracy Week 2011. [41905]

Robert Neill: No specific Government funding is available to support such participation.

Newspaper Press

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of *(a)* the level of newspaper readership in each decile of the population and *(b)* its relationship with levels of civic disengagement. [42126]

Greg Clark: Data held by the Government show that in terms of the relationship between newspaper readership and age, readership is prevalent across age bands, as illustrated by the following table.

Table 1: Newspaper readership by age, England, 2009-10

Age band	*Percentage citing newspaper as a main source of information on news and current affairs*
16 to 25	64
26 to 34	66
35 to 49	66
50 to 64	71
65 to 74	73
75 and over	69
All	68

The relationship between newspaper readership and 'civic disengagement' can be seen in the following table.

Table 2: Newspaper readership and 'civic disengagement', England, 2009-10

	Percentage of people civically 'engaged' or 'disengaged', 12 months prior to interview	
Newspaper readership	*Disengaged*	*Engaged*
No readership	50	50
Readership	36	64
All	41	59

Planning

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to amend Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008 to make parish councils statutory consultees for the purposes of section 42(b) of that Act. [43228]

Robert Neill: The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations (SI 2009 No. 2264) already make relevant parish councils statutory consultees for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. There is therefore no need to make amendment to section 43 of that Act.

Racial and Religious Hatred

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements his Department has put in place to measure levels of racial and religious hatred. [42114]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government is not responsible for measuring levels of racial and religious hatred. However, the programme for Government document includes a commitment to improve the collection of hate crime data. The Home Office has implemented this commitment and the formal collection of hate crime data across the five monitored strands (disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation) will begin in April of this year. The data are to be published in summer 2012.

Regeneration

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the conclusions and recommendations of the coalfields regeneration review report. [42198]

Andrew Stunell: The Government intend to formally respond to the coalfields regeneration review report and the recommendations shortly. The response will be published on the Department's website.

The review of coalfields regeneration report is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/reviewcoalfieldsregeneration

Social Rented Housing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking in respect of the under-occupation of social housing and the promotion of social mobility. [41786]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Woking (Jonathan Lord) on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 11.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42605]

Greg Clark: The Department for Communities and Local Government follows the principles of the National Compact concordat between the Coalition Government and Civil Society in policy developments.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of long-term volunteering rates among *(a)* men and *(b)* women as (i) formal and (ii) informal volunteers. [42111]

Andrew Stunell: All Citizenship Survey data are publicly available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/research/citizenshipsurvey/

Its assessment indicates a decrease in the levels of regular formal volunteering in England from 2005 to 2009-10 among both males (27% to 24%) and females (31% to 26%o) aged 16 years and over.

Similarly, levels of regular informal volunteering in England by gender show a decrease in participation from 2005 to 2009-10 among both males (32% to 26%) and females (41% to 32%).

The Citizenship Survey definition of formal volunteering is

> "Giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment".

This excludes giving money and activities related to job requirements.

Formal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help through any UK groups, clubs or organisations via the following activities: raising or handling money/taking part in sponsored events; leading the group/member of a committee; organising or helping run an activity or event; visiting people; befriending or mentoring people; giving advice/information/counselling; secretarial, admin or clerical work; providing transport/driving; representing; campaigning; other practical help (e.g. helping out at school); and any other help.

The Citizenship Survey definition of informal volunteering is

> "Giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives".

Informal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help to someone who is not a relative via the following activities: keeping in touch with someone who has difficult getting out and about; doing shopping/collecting prescription/paying bills; cooking/cleaning/laundry/gardening or other routine household jobs; decorating or doing any kind of home or car repairs; babysitting or caring for children; sitting with or providing personal care (e.g. washing, dressing) for someone who is sick or frail; looking after property or a pet for someone who is away; giving advice; writing letters or filling in forms; representing someone (e.g. talking to a council department or a doctor); transporting or escorting someone (e.g. to hospital).

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of long-term trends in formal volunteering by those with *(a)* a degree, *(b)* higher education below a degree, *(c)* A level or equivalent, *(d)* GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent, *(e)* GCSEs at grade D to E or equivalent, *(f)* foreign and other qualifications and *(g)* no qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [42117]

Greg Clark: Data held by the Government provide information on the percentage of people who participated in regular (at least once a month) formal volunteering in England, by highest qualification level over the last five survey years.

Percentage

Highest qualification[1]	*2003*	*2005*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Degree or equivalent	40	39	37	35	35
Higher Education below degree level	32	41	33	34	31
A-level or equivalent	29	32	31	29	28
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	29	29	24	24	22
GCSE grades D-E or equivalent	25	20	22	15	18
Foreign and other qualifications	19	28	21	14	13
No qualifications	16	16	15	14	15
Total[2]	28	29	27	26	25

[1] Qualifications based on respondents aged 16 to 69 years. Respondents aged 70 or over are excluded.

[2] 'Total' row based on all respondents, including those aged 70 or over.

The definition used of formal volunteering is

> "Giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment".

This excludes giving money and activities related to job requirements.

Formal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help through any UK groups, clubs or organisations via the following activities: raising or handling money/taking part in sponsored events; leading the group/member of a committee; organising or helping run an activity or event; visiting people; befriending or mentoring people; giving advice/information/counselling; secretarial, admin or clerical work; providing transport/driving; representing; campaigning; other practical help (e.g. helping out at school); and any other help.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 212-4W, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the reduction in the estimated level of volunteering by young people between 2005 and 2010. [40160]

Greg Clark: My Department holds no firm evidence suggesting the reasons for the decrease in volunteering from 2005 to 2009-10. However, the new Government, through initiatives such as the National Citizenship Service, and reforms to the vetting and barring scheme, are seeking to expand the opportunities for volunteering.

HEALTH

Abortion: Private Sector

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that independent abortion providers have appropriate care pathways in place for women following abortions; [42352]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that counselling provided by independent abortion providers is impartial. [42353]

Anne Milton: Independent abortion providers are regulated by the Care Quality Commission and require the Secretary of State's approval to perform abortions. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists evidence-based guidelines, "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion", a copy of which is available in the Library, highlights the need for services to have clear care pathways for the management and referral of women. This will include referrals for counselling for those women who require it following abortion.

In addition, the guideline states that verbal advice should be supported by accurate, impartial, printed information that the woman can understand and may take away to consider further before the procedure.

The Department produced a model abortion service specification for commissioners in 2010. This specification also highlights the need for robust care pathways and access to impartial information, advice and support.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women have been re-referred to NHS antenatal units from independent abortion providers following a decision to continue with their pregnancy in the latest period for which figures are available; [42354]

(2) how many women *(a)* used the 24-hour helpline and *(b)* requested follow-up appointments following a pregnancy termination procedure in the last year for which figures are available; [42355]

(3) how many women were referred from independent abortion providers to adoption advisers following a decision to continue with their pregnancy in the last year for which figures are available. [42356]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department.

Abortion providers should ensure that women are given time and information to enable them to make an informed decision. This will include information covering alternatives to abortion, such as motherhood or adoption.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists draft evidence-based guidelines "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion" proposes that "all women should be able to choose to return for routine follow-up if they so wish". In addition, it proposes that they should be given a 24-hour helpline number to obtain advice and support after having an abortion.

Baby Care Units

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of children admitted to neonatal units who *(a)* died within (i) 24 hours, (ii) two days, (iii) three days and (iv) seven days and *(b)* survived and were discharged in each of the last five years. [41963]

Anne Milton: Neonatal units use local data systems to collect information on date of birth/admission of babies and date of discharge or death to feed into local, and if appropriate national audits. This information is used to inform the development of services locally. It is not reported centrally to the Department.

Data on all admissions to neonatal units are captured on a central standardised electronic system known as the UK National Neonatal System. Anonymised patient data are collected daily from the majority of neonatal units in England, on data items such as: month and year of birth; date of admission; date of discharge; gestation length at birth; and birth weight. The Neonatal Data Analysis Unit (NDAU), an independent academic unit at Imperial College London, has National Information Governance Board approval to undertake analysis of neonatal electronic records. Any data requests for data from the System would have to be submitted to the NDAU.

Blood: Contamination

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors he took into account in determining how many hours of counselling should be provided to people who have been infected by contaminated NHS blood products; and which organisations will be providing such counselling services. [42773]

Anne Milton: Exactly how many hours of counselling might be required has not yet been determined because it is not known how many individuals might want to access this counselling and how many sessions each person may require. Uptake will be reviewed once arrangements are in place during 2011. A decision on which organisation(s) will provide the counselling has not yet been made.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on improving access to insurance and financial services for people who have been infected by contaminated NHS blood products. [42774]

Anne Milton: There have been no ministerial discussions on this issue. However, officials were in discussion with officials in HM Treasury in October and November 2010.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to provide additional support to people caring for individuals who have been infected by contaminated blood products. [42775]

Anne Milton: There is already support available for people caring for individuals who have been infected by contaminated blood products through social services and the carer's allowance. There are no plans to provide additional support specifically for carers of this patient group, beyond that announced in the oral statement by the Secretary of State for Health on 10 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 33-35.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are circumstances in which the additional payments available through the Skipton Fund for people infected by contaminated blood products may be paid to the widow or widower of eligible recipients. [42776]

Anne Milton: Where an eligible infected individual has died without making a claim, lump sum payments can be made into his or her estate. The representative of the deceased individual is required to claim payment in the same way as a living infected individual is required to claim. Anyone who considers they may be eligible to claim should contact the Skipton Fund. Details can be found on its website at:

www.skiptonfund.org

Discretionary payments will also be available to support the dependants of those infected with Hepatitis C, including the dependants of those who have since died. This includes bereaved spouses and partners.

Cervical Cancer: Smoking

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the link between smoking and cervical cancer. [42858]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes in Gynaecological Cancers", published by the Department in 1999, acknowledged the link between smoking and cervical cancer. The World Health Organisation also acknowledges this link.

Cancer-causing chemicals from cigarettes have been identified in the cervical samples taken from women who smoke. In addition to this, cells in the cervical lining that help combat disease have been found to be less effective in smokers.

Mortality Rates

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the years of life lost owing to mortality from *(a)* epilepsy, *(b)* asthma, *(c)* Parkinson's disease and *(d)* multiple sclerosis in the latest period for which figures are available. [43190]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no estimate of the potential years of life lost owing to premature mortality from epilepsy, asthma, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 570W, on drugs: rehabilitation, what estimate he has made of the number of people prescribed daily doses of methadone of between 12 milligrams and 32 milligrams who have been on methadone for over one year. [43370]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally.

The national drug treatment monitoring system collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs, such as buprenorphine, which are also recommended for the treatment of drug misuse by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Nor does it record individuals' daily doses.

General Practitioners: Private Sector

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 608W, on general practitioners, whether a licensed private healthcare provider will be permitted to *(a)* provide services and *(b)* enter into a contract with GP consortia to carry out duties in relation to its work as a commissioning body. [42419]

Mr Simon Burns: Consortia will be free, within the legislative framework, to make the decisions that they judge are right for patients and provide value for money. This includes commissioning services from the public, voluntary or private sectors.

General practitioner consortia will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the costs associated with commissioning. They will have the freedom to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves, and for what activities they choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies.

Hospitals: Construction

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the *(a)* re-building of the West Cumberland Hospital, *(b)* Keswick Cottage Hospital development, *(c)* Millom Cottage Hospital development, *(d)* Cockermouth Cottage Hospital development, *(e)* Maryport Cottage Hospital development and *(f)* Cleator Moor Health Centre to be complete. [43269]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for delivering local health services lies with the national health service locally. The re-development of acute and community hospital facilities in Cumbria is a matter for the local NHS in Cumbria. Cumbria primary care trust and the north Cumbria university hospitals NHS trust are best placed to advise on the current position of any proposed developments locally.

Human Papilloma Virus

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the average cost to the NHS of treating a case of laryngeal papilloma; [42055]

(2) which wart viruses cause laryngeal papilloma. [42056]

Anne Milton: The genital warts that cause laryngeal papilloma are a result of the Human papilloma virus. Laryngeal papilloma is most commonly seen among young children and is transmitted from mother to baby at birth.

Information is not collected on the average cost to the national health service of treating a case of laryngeal papilloma.

Leeds General Infirmary: Heart Diseases

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the future of the child heart surgery unit at Leeds General Infirmary. [42684]

Mr Simon Burns: A review of children's heart surgery services, known as the Safe and Sustainable programme, is being carried out within the national health service by the NHS national specialised commissioning team. We have been regularly updated on progress and briefed on the options for future children's heart surgery services which are due to go out to public consultation from 28 February until 1 July 2011. These options can be found at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/news/view/25

MRSA: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the capacity of methods of screening against the MRSA bacterium used by NHS hospitals to detect new strains of the infection; and if he will make a statement. [42983]

Mr Simon Burns: Many laboratory methods are available to national health service hospitals to detect Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and these meet the European Commission standards for safety, quality and performance. NHS trust laboratories use simple tests to detect MRSA. These tests have been available for many years and are capable of detecting the emergence of a new MRSA on this basis.

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who were reported as successfully discharged from treatment in the national drug treatment monitoring system who returned to GP methadone prescriptions in the latest period for which figures are available. [43268]

Anne Milton: Data from the national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS) records 24,969 adults who completed treatment successfully in England in 2008-09. Of these, 745 (3% of those who completed treatment successfully in 2008-09) re-presented for treatment in 2009-10 and were recorded as receiving a general practitioner prescribing intervention.

NDTMS collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but it does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs, such as buprenorphine, which are also recommended for the treatment of drug misuse by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

NHS: Finance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* value as a proportion of all NHS services of those NHS services which are subject to a set tariff. [43264]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2010-11 the national tariff covers an estimated £29 billion of national health service services, representing about 30% of estimated NHS revenue expenditure.

North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has of the likely effects on the provision of acute hospital services at West Cumberland Hospital of *(a)* implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill and *(b)* NHS Trust mergers involving North Cumbria University Hospitals Acute Trust; and if he will make a statement. [43062]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for healthcare commissioners to plan, develop and improve local health services, taking into account the healthcare needs of their local populations and in accordance with national policy and guidance.

The decision taken by North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust to seek a partner organisation, through a merger or acquisition, is about ensuring the sustainable delivery of high quality healthcare. Taking this approach will, in turn, enable the organisation to meet the requirements needed to achieve foundation trust status by April 2014 and benefit from the independence this brings to further develop services to improve health outcomes for patients.

Nurses: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on training and career development of the proposal to freeze the payment of annual increments in the salaries of NHS nurses. [42425]

Mr Simon Burns: We do not believe that a freeze in incremental progression will have an effect on the training and career development of nurses. The proposal to freeze incremental progression for national health service staff, via a national enabling framework, was made by NHS Employers to the NHS Staff Council. Although NHS trade unions rejected the framework, we understand that NHS Employers have not withdrawn the proposal and that they are encouraging employers to discuss with trade unions the financial challenges they face locally, so they are able to make informed decisions about job security and the potential benefits of the framework for staff and patients.

Ministers will of course consider very carefully any formal proposals that are made.

Effective appraisals are an essential part of NHS employment practice, leading to improved staff performance, higher staff satisfaction and better patient outcomes. The NHS Constitution also commits the NHS to providing staff with clear roles and responsibilities, and personal development and 'line management support to succeed'.

The NHS knowledge and skills framework for staff subject to the Agenda for Change pay framework, provides a useful supporting framework to identify the knowledge and skills that staff need to do their job and their development needs. Such annual reviews should take place whether or not there is a pay or increment freeze.

Obesity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of long-term trends in *(a)* calorie intake and *(b)* exercise levels; and whether he has made an assessment of the relationship between such trends and levels of heart disease. [42551]

Anne Milton: The national diet and nutrition survey collects information on average daily calorie intakes from a random, representative sample of people across the country who are asked to complete a diary of food and drink consumption over a number of days. Information is available on intakes for adult men and women for 1986-87, 2000-01 and 2008-09. Calorie intake for men has fallen slightly, but for women has remained broadly similar. In 1986-87, intake for men was 2,450 kcal/day and for women was 1,680 kcal/day. In 2008-09, intake for men was 2,255 kcal/day and for women was 1,645 kcal/day.

Participation in physical activity in England is measured through the Health Survey for England. The Health Survey for England 2008 showed that 39% of men and 29% of women reported that they met the chief medical officer's recommended guidelines for physical activity compared with 32% and 21% respectively in 1997.

The Department has not carried out any specific assessment of the relationship between the trends in calorie intake and physical activity and levels of heart disease.

The White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" sets out the Government's vision and approach to improving health, including through better nutrition and increased physical activity levels.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS expenditure in each region which will be spent on implementing his proposals on patient choice in the next 12 months. [42014]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS' set out a number of commitments on choice. The consultation on these proposals 'Greater Choice and Control' closed on 14 January. The replies are currently being analysed and a response will be issued in the spring. There will be a full impact assessment in due course.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to address the variations between trusts in the experience of treatment and care reported by men with prostate cancer in the 2010 national cancer patient experience survey; and if he will make a statement. [42541]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of national health service trusts to provide quality treatment and care for their patients.

In order to incentivise quality improvements in patient treatment, care and experience, all 158 trusts that took part in the 2010 cancer patient experience survey were sent a bespoke report showing their own results. Each report displayed the results for each question in the survey benchmarked against other trusts. The report also benchmarked by teams within trusts where numbers allowed.

In order to maximise opportunities for quality improvement actions based on the results of the survey, the trust level reports were sent directly to the chief executive of each trust, clearly identifying whether they were a low performer or not compared to other trusts.

Primary care trust chief executives and cancer network directors were also sent the local trust reports relevant to their areas to enable local action as appropriate.

The Department is also funding Quality Health, the survey provider, to offer free presentations to the trusts in the bottom 10% of performers, explaining their results and offering potential actions they can take to improve the experience of their cancer patients.

The survey has been identified as a possible exemplar Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment incentive goal to support local quality improvement. A single composite, case-mix adjusted score for each trust based on the survey results is being developed to enable this.

In order to promote patient choice, the NHS Choices website has integrated three questions from the survey into comparative tools to allow patients to compare performance.

We are supporting an academic fellowship application to focus on further analysis of the 2010 dataset. If successful, this analysis aims to look further into the socio-economic findings of the survey and then provide analysis of the links between data from the cancer peer review programme and the survey. A key measure of the Cancer Peer Review programmes is that trusts should be able to demonstrate actions they have taken on the results of patient experience surveys.

The final anonymised dataset from the survey is being made available for research for other agencies to use for further analysis of the data to further identify where improvements need to be made.

Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support the NHS provides to persons diagnosed with reflex sympathetic dystrophy. [43178]

Paul Burstow: It is for local commissioners to determine what services should be commissioned to meet the needs of their local populations, in the light of local and national professional advice.

Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), previously known as reflex sympathetic dystrophy, is a complex and poorly understood condition. It seems to involve an excessive reaction to an injury, resulting in localised pain which is much more severe and lasts much longer than would normally be expected from the nature of the injury. It can occur at any age, although it appears to be more common between ages 45-60 and in women. The one available estimate of prevalence is some 21 cases per 1,000,000.

CRPS can resolve spontaneously, but where this does not occur treatment is more likely to be effective if it is initiated quickly (within three months of the initial symptoms). Diagnosis can be difficult especially in the early stages.

Treatment involves a combination of:

1. pain relief with oral medicines or, less commonly, injections or spinal stimulation;
2. physical therapy (exercises, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy) to restore normal functioning of the affected limb; and
3. patient education, so that the patient is fully involved in the therapeutic aims.

Many patients suffer from psychological side effects (depression, anxiety) so good practice involves a psychological assessment and, where needed, psychological interventions such as cognitive behavioural therapy or relaxation techniques. A small number of centres in the United Kingdom can provide a specialist rehabilitation service for difficult cases.

Rotavirus Vaccine

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to receive a further recommendation on the rotavirus vaccine from the Joint Council on Vaccination and Immunisation; [43516]

(2) when he expects the Health Protection Agency to complete its modelling in order to provide the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation with information on the cost-effectiveness of introducing a rotavirus vaccine. [43517]

Anne Milton: Over the next few months, the Health Protection Agency will be completing a new modelling study on the cost effectiveness of a rotavirus vaccination programme. The study will then be peer-reviewed by a panel of independent experts before consideration by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). It is anticipated that the study will be completed and peer-reviewed in time for JCVI to consider the findings at its meeting scheduled for June 2011.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of *(a)* new and *(b)* repeat cases of (i) genital warts, (ii) pre-cancer and (iii) overt cervical cancer in the latest period for which figures are available. [42857]

Paul Burstow: In 2008, the most recent period for which statistics are available, 2,334 women in England were diagnosed with cervical cancer. National statistics reflect newly diagnosed cases of cervical cancer only. Instances of recurrence are not collected nationally.

Cervical screening only identifies abnormalities that could, if untreated, develop into cancer. We are therefore unable to provide the statistics on abnormalities that will not become cancer.

The number of diagnoses of genital warts (first episode) in genitourinary medicine clinics (GUM) clinics in England by age groups and years 1995 to 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, are given in the following table.

	Genital warts: first episode								Genital warts: recurrence
Age-group	<15	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65+	Total	Total
1995	195	8,367	17,781	17,270	4,603	2,108	143	50,467	38,890
1996	181	9,414	18,692	18,020	4,909	2,136	153	53,875	41,115
1997	190	10,453	20,012	19,444	5,138	2,317	140	57,852	44,219
1998	171	11,115	19,562	19,824	5,523	2,383	152	58,793	46,816
1999	206	11,273	19,943	19,795	5,791	2,589	200	60,252	47,414
2000	153	11,144	20,029	19,216	6,047	2,500	196	59,758	47,078
2001	143	11,383	20,625	19,756	6,600	2,702	203	61,505	47,055
2002	155	11,518	21,177	19,885	7,097	2,754	183	62,982	45,480
2003	155	12,192	21,893	19,689	7,207	2,986	188	64,319	45,995
2004	146	13,220	23,049	19,977	7,518	3,108	212	67,251	46,227
2005	139	13,490	23,532	20,014	7,305	3,171	189	67,852	48,747
2006	138	14,225	24,129	20,157	7,478	3,358	210	69,700	51,368
2007	153	15,653	25,814	21,593	7,926	3,632	272	75,272	55,517
2008	149	16,364	27,109	22,141	7,959	4,109	313	78,156	57,732
2009	177	15,947	26,934	22,387	8,213	4,307	307	78,274	62,230

Notes:

1. Data by age-group are only available for the groups presented.
2. Data on unknown gender and age-group are included in the 'Total' row for 2009 data.
3. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics only. A recent study (pending publication) of genital warts cases (first and recurrence) seen in GUM clinics and in general practice in 2008 has found most cases seen in general practice were referred on to GUM clinics and estimated that only around 5% of cases were seen in general practice only, ie figures in table 1 may represent up to 95% of cases.
4. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. The information provided is based on reported data from GUM clinics in England that has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 and Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset (GUMCAD) returns.

Data are unavailable for 2010.

South Central Strategic Health Authority: Manpower

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* registered nurses and *(b)* doctors are employed by the South Central strategic health authority. [42979]

Mr Simon Burns: Numbers of non-medical nursing staff and medical and dental doctors employed by NHS South Central can be found in the National Health Service workforce census, which also includes the numbers employed in the entire strategic health authority (SHA) area. 2009 data are the most recent census data available. 2010 census data will be published in late March 2011.

The census shows the number of qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff employed by NHS South Central (headcount) is two. The number employed in the entire SHA area (headcount) is 23,925.

The number of hospital doctors employed by the NHS South Central (headcount) is 11. The number employed in the entire SHA area (headcount) is 7,353.

The full census is available on the NHS information centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/nhsworkforce

Swine Flu

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* incidences of and *(b)* deaths involving swine influenza there were in each of the last five years. [41756]

Anne Milton: Respiratory illness in humans caused by swine flu virus (influenza A H1N1 (2009)) was first identified in early 2009 in Mexico. United Kingdom data are thus available for 2009 onwards.

Influenza activity is monitored through various surveillance indicators including patient consultation incidence rates for influenza-like illness (ILI) in primary care. There are no routine national figures for the overall incidence of influenza infection (including swine flu) in the general population.

Data on swine flu deaths are summarised in the following table.

Time period	*Deaths associated with swine flu virus*	*Reference*
Swine flu pandemic (April 2009 to May 2010)	A total of 474 deaths with confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (either laboratory confirmed or with mention on the death certificate) were reported in the UK up to 15 April 2010 (359 in England, 69 in Scotland, 18 in Northern Ireland and 28 in Wales)[1]	Epidemiological report of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the UK www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1284475321350

Time period	*Deaths associated with swine flu virus*	*Reference*
May 2010 to 2011 (up to 23 February 2011)	Further epidemiological information on cases is available on 499 of the 532 fatal confirmed influenza cases from across the UK reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA), including 400 cases from England. 461 (92%) of these 499 cases were associated with H1N1 (2009)[2]	HPA Weekly National Influenza Report Summary of UK surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory illnesses www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1296681716703

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[1] Two parallel systems for collecting information on individual fatal cases operated during the pandemic, one by the chief medical officers (CMO's) office and the other by the HPA. The reports from the two systems were reconciled. CMO's confidential inquiry involved reporting of confirmed fatal cases through the national health service. The HPA's system involved identification of deaths through reconciliation of data from a range of surveillance sources (e.g. influenza laboratory reports, death certificates, reports from local HPA teams).

[2] The ascertainment of fatal influenza cases in the current season has been similar to the HPA approach used during the pandemic.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of any internal background note prepared for the response to each parliamentary question tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West and answered by his Department since 1 July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [41721]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 March 2011

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Committee of Selection

Graham Jones: To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions he has had with the Chair of the Committee of Selection on the operation of that Committee. [43627]

Sir George Young: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today during Oral Questions to the hon. Member for Lewisham East (Heidi Alexander).

I have occasional discussions with my hon. Friend the Member for The Cotswolds (Geoffrey Clifton-Brown) on the work of his Committee.

The House's arrangements for the appointment of select committee members and chairs have been significantly strengthened by changes introduced at the beginning of this Parliament.

Chair of the Committee of Selection

Bill Esterson: To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions he has had with the Chair of the Committee of Selection on the operation of that Committee. [43622]

Chris Williamson: To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions he has had with the Chair of the Committee of Selection on the operation of that Committee. [43626]

Sir George Young: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave today during Oral Questions to the hon. Member for Lewisham East (Heidi Alexander).

I have occasional discussions with my hon. Friend the Member for The Cotswolds (Geoffrey Clifton-Brown) on the work of his Committee.

The House's arrangements for the appointment of select committee members and chairs have been significantly strengthened by changes introduced at the beginning of this Parliament.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, whether the Church Commissioners have a policy to encourage their employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate to charity through payroll giving. [44193]

Tony Baldry: The employees of the Church of England's National Church Institutions (NCIs) include all staff working at Lambeth Palace, Lambeth Palace Library, Bishopthorpe Palace in York, the Archbishops Council, the Pensions Board, the National Society for Promoting Religious Education and the Church Commissioners. These staff members as of 2008 are able to take up to five working days charity leave. This work can only be undertaken for registered, recognised charities and does not include general voluntary work in the parish or community. Employees are also able to donate to charity through the 'Give As You Earn' scheme where money can be deducted straight from the individual's pay-packet.

SCOTLAND

Flexibility Drawdown: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £1,900,000 in voted expenditure due to an end year flexibility drawdown. [43338]

Michael Moore: The comprehensive spending review (CSR) 2007 settlement determined under the previous Government was based on the presumption that the Scotland Office would be allowed to bank underspends where they occurred and for those underspends to be carried forward under the end year flexibility (EYF) scheme to be used to meet pressures in later years. The £1.9 million EYF drawn down in the Spring Supplementary Estimates allowed the Scotland Office to meet its spending commitments for 2010-11.

Scottish Parliament: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £125,784,000 in grant to the Scottish Parliament. [43590]

Michael Moore: The increases to the Scottish Consolidated Fund are set out in the following table. How additional money provided by Parliament is spent is a matter for the Scottish Parliament.

£ million

	Revised position after 2010-11 Winter Supplementary	*Changes*	*Revised position after 2010-11 Spring Supplementary*
Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)	29,246.021	-116.335	29,129.686
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	3,445.177	201.158	3,646.335
Movements in Debtors and Creditors and Business Rates	213.808	143.000	356.80
Less:			
Supported Borrowing by Local Authorities	305.156	0	305.156
National Insurance Fund Payments towards Scottish National Health Service	1,724.076	0	1,724.076
Non Voted (Fines)	11.500	0	11.500
Cash to Accrual Adjustments	3,715.606	102.039	3,817.645
Total	27,148.668		27,274.452

Details of changes to the Scotland Office departmental expenditure limit are set out in the written ministerial statement made on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 64WS.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Calyx UK Ltd

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what services and equipment Calyx UK Ltd provide to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and whether quotes from other suppliers were obtained before the contract with Calyx was signed. [40431]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what services and equipment Calyx UK Ltd and Calyx Managed Services Ltd provide to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and whether quotes from other suppliers were obtained before the contract with Calyx was signed.

The scope of the contract with Calyx UK Ltd and Calyx Managed Services Ltd covers infrastructure and enterprise software support.

Infrastructure support includes server hardware, desktops and laptops, network hardware, office infrastructure, firewalls, anti-virus, web proxy and hosting services, Wide Area Network link, security solutions, email and telephony.

Enterprise support includes software support for financial accounting, the online expense system, payroll, human resources and a relationship management system.

IPSA selected Calyx as its ICT systems provider following a structured procurement exercise run through OGC Buying Solutions. A number of specialist ICT providers bid for the work and were evaluated against pre-agreed criteria by a selection panel made-up of IPSA Directors and ICT staff working for IPSA. The OGC maintained an oversight of the procurement.

Three responses were received to the invitation to tender for the Infrastructure Solution and three for the Enterprise Solution.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has paid to Calyx UK Ltd since its inception; what payments are likely to be made in the remainder of 2010-11; and what estimate has been made of the payments to be made in 2011-12. [40433]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, doted February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how much the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has paid Calyx UK Ltd since its inception; what payments are anticipated to be made in the remainder of the current financial year; and what estimate has been made of the payments to be made in 2011-12.

IPSA has, from its inception to 14 February 2011, made payments totalling £2,219,000 to Calyx UK Ltd and Calyx Managed Services Ltd.

We will be able to confirm the total amount paid to these companies in 2010-11 after the end of the financial year.

We are still in the process of compiling our estimate for 2011-12, and this will be presented to the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in due course.

Expenditure

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will request that the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority publish a list of the expenditure it has incurred for sums lower than £25,000. [40430]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, doted February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether IPSA will publish a list of expenditure it has incurred for sums lower than £25,000.

We have undertaken to publish details of expenditure on items over £25,000. This is consistent with the Government's transparency agenda. There are no plans at this stage routinely to publish items below this threshold but we will keep this policy under review.

Communications Officers

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the job descriptions of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's communications officers are. [39156]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated February 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the job descriptions are for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's communications officers.

As of 28 February, the communications team consists of two people. Copies of their job descriptions have been placed in the House of Commons library.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the salaries of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's communications officers are. [39157]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated February 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the salaries are of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's communications officers.

The salaries of the members of the communications team have previously been published, in £5,000 bands, in answer to Parliamentary Questions 15729 and 15730, published in Hansard on 12 October 2010, column 260W.

Members: Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many expense claims from hon. Members have been rejected by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) on the grounds that insufficient evidence was provided in cases where IPSA was subsequently found to have lost the documentation provided. [39155]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many expense claims from hon. Members have been rejected by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) on the grounds that insufficient evidence was provided in cases where IPSA was subsequently found to have lost the documentation provided. (39155)

Since 7 May 2010 IPSA has found, following requests from MPs for reviews of determinations not to reimburse a claim due to insufficient evidence being submitted, that in some 58 cases (of over 96,000 processed to date) sufficient evidence had in fact been submitted at the time the original determination was made. In each case, the original determinations were consequently overturned and the claims reimbursed. In none of these cases is it clear that the original determination was made as a result of a loss of documentation by IPSA.

Overtime

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have worked overtime in each month since its inception; and how much has been paid in overtime payments in each such month. [40428]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have worked overtime in each month since its inception; and how much has been paid in overtime payments in each such month.

We hold aggregate data on overtime payments made to permanent staff. Where temporary, seconded and contract staff work overtime, these costs are either included in their day rates or are charged alongside contracted hours, and so payments for overtime are not recorded separately from payments for contracted hours.

IPSA staff at grade E (equivalent to Civil Service grade 7) and above are not eligible for overtime payments.

The table below details the number of permanent staff working overtime each month and the amount spent.

	Number of employees working overtime	*Total value of overtime payments for that month (£)*
April 2010	0	0
May 2010	0	0
June 2010	2	483.44
July 2010	2	1,163.11
August 2010	6	2,932.50
September 2010	6	1,429.75
October 2010	12	5,300.23
November 2010	10	3,061.90
December 2010	9	2,277.72
January 2011	13	2,696.89

Pay: Compliance Officer

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what comparators the board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority used to determine the salary to be offered to its incoming compliance officer. [38205]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated February 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what comparators the board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority used to determine the salary to be offered to its incoming compliance officer.

The recruitment process for the compliance officer is currently under way and the salary any successful candidate will be offered will be dependent on the skills and experience of the candidate.

The advertised salary range was determined following a market comparison which was undertaken by reviewing similar compliance roles currently being advertised and following advice from the recruitment consultancy.

Board Members: Expenses

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much members of the Board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have claimed under each category in each month since their appointment. [40437]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how much members of the Board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have claimed under each category in each month since their appointment.

Details of expense claims made by IPSA Board Members in the first and second quarters of the current financial year (2010-11) are available on IPSA's website. Claims for the third quarter of the current financial year will be available on our website by no later than 4 March 2011.

The only claim made in the third quarter was as follows:

Rt Hon Sir Scott Baker: £57.50 for Travel to Board Meeting.

No claims have been made in the fourth quarter to date.

Public Opinion Surveys

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many public opinion surveys the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has commissioned; what the cost of each was; who composed the questions in each survey; and if he will arrange for IPSA to place in the Library a copy of the questions asked. [40429]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated February 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many public opinion surveys the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has commissioned; what the cost of each was; who composed the questions in each survey; and if he will arrange for IPSA to place in the Library a copy of the questions asked. (40429)

IPSA has commissioned one public opinion survey, in November 2010. The survey was conducted by YouGov, who were selected following a competitive procurement process, at a cost of £2,600. The questions were composed by YouGov working from a brief provided by IPSA.

IPSA published the survey questions in its publication "Annual Review of the MPs' Expenses Scheme Consultation—January 2011". This document was lodged with the Vote Office on 5 January 2011 who deposited copies in the Library.

Triumph Corporate Furniture and Storage

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many items of furniture of each type the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority purchased from Triumph Corporate Furniture and Storage; what the cost was of each item; and whether quotes from other suppliers were obtained before the order was placed. [40434]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated February 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many items of furniture of each type the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority purchased from Triumph Corporate Furniture and Storage; what the cost was of each item; and whether quotes from other suppliers were obtained before the order was placed.

The total cost of furniture obtained from Triumph was £239,000 (excluding VAT). The number of items of furniture purchased, and the type and cost of each item is set out in a schedule, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Triumph was selected to supply furniture to IPSA following a structured procurement exercise run through OGC Buying Solutions. Three suppliers who provide standard office furniture were approached and responded and, of those three, Triumph provided the best solution in terms of design, flexibility, and price, and was able to deliver against a tight timescale.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43252]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated March 2011:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether we have a policy to encourage employees to a) volunteer and b) donate via payroll giving.

IPSA employees may apply for reasonable time off for voluntary public duties. IPSA also enables employees to donate via the payroll system. IPSA will be developing these policies further over the coming months.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Philanthropy: Arts

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage philanthropy in the arts. [43634]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department is pursuing a 10 point action plan on philanthropy, which includes an £80 million match funding scheme to incentivise giving in the arts. We are also working closely with colleagues across Government to deliver the proposals set out in the recent Green Paper on Giving.

Community and Grass-roots Sports

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on funding for community and grass-roots sports. [43638]

Hugh Robertson: In common with other Departments, this was a tough spending review for the Department. However, as a result of the Government's changes to the national lottery, Sport England will see its funding for community sport rise by 14% over the spending review period, after a small fall in 2011-12.

Boxing: Young People

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of rates of participation of young people in boxing. [43631]

Hugh Robertson: The previous Government's 2009-10 school sport survey showed that 10% of schools offered boxing to their pupils.

Latest actual data show that the National Governing Body for Boxing, the Amateur Boxing Association of England, increased the number of 5 to 19-year-olds joining its accredited clubs, or receiving skills awards, or both, by 3,491 in 2009-10, to reach a total of 14,315 young people.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Aberconwy (Guto Bebb) of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 281W, on broadband, when he decided to designate an area of North Wales as suitable for a broadband pilot area. [43705]

Mr Vaizey: My officials have been working closely with all three devolved Administrations over a number of months on the development of plans to roll out broadband in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and continue to do so. The announcement of support for a broadband project in North Wales on 10 February reflects the progress of discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on their broadband plans. This is in keeping with the general approach that all areas of the UK should be working to develop local broadband plans and that these will form the basis for future support for broadband projects.

Broadband: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the £10 million of funding for the superfast broadband pilot in North Wales will be disbursed by the Welsh Assembly Government. [43801]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) is overseeing the expenditure of the £530 million of funds allocated to support broadband roll-out throughout the UK. The approach being taken to the disbursement of funds is that BDUK works with the relevant local authority or devolved Administration to define the precise project in detail. Pilots and projects will then be subject to procurement competitions run by the relevant local authorities or devolved Administration with BDUK support and advice. BDUK funds will be contributed together with other sources of public and private sector funds to finance the project. The North Wales project and the four pilot projects announced in October 2010 will be supported in this way.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will define the geographical coverage of the North Wales superfast broadband pilot area announced on 11 February 2011. [43802]

Mr Vaizey: In keeping with the approach being taken for the four pilot projects announced in October 2010, precise details of the project, including geographical coverage will be set by the relevant local authority and devolved Administration, working closely with Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK). The North Wales area is included in the Welsh Assembly Government's next generation broadband procurement published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) on 25 February.

National Lottery: Retail Trade

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will instruct the National Lottery Commission to examine the appropriateness of the actions of Camelot National Lotteries in promoting to retailers the sale of £5 scratchcards in the context of their regulatory obligations. [42805]

John Penrose *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The National Lottery Commission has already considered Camelot's proposals for £5 scratchcard games in line with its statutory duties and has approved them.

In addition the Commission will continue to monitor future sales data from Camelot to gain increased insight into scratchcard player behaviour. Appropriate action would be taken should any concerns about £5 games come to light.

Sports

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of future trends in levels of participation in seated volleyball. [43797]

Hugh Robertson: While no assessment has been made of future trends, I am confident Volleyball England is working to increase participation in Sitting Volleyball as part of their "Playground to Podium" programme. In addition to that, Volleyball England will manage the Great Britain Paralympic Programmes for the London Paralympic Games, and will be responsible for the training and promotion of Sitting Volleyball from entry point through to performance in the lead up to 2012.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that her published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in her Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which she is responsible. [43540]

Richard Benyon: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Flood Control: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 291-92W, on flood control: finance, how much she expects local authorities to spend on flood prevention and protection from the local authority formula grant in each of the next four financial years. [42880]

Richard Benyon: It is not possible to predict how much local authorities will choose to spend on flood prevention and protection in each of the next four financial years. Formula grant is unhypothecated and unringfenced. This means each local authority has the flexibility to decide for itself the relative priority of spending on flood risk management versus its other roles and duties.

Public Forest Estate: Red Squirrels

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the effects on the red squirrel population of her recent decisions on policy on the ownership and management of Forestry Commission land in England. [44011]

Richard Benyon: We are committed to the natural environment and will ensure that the protection of our most valuable forests and their biodiversity will not be compromised.

We are establishing an independent panel to consider forestry policy in England, which will report with its findings this autumn. The panel will advise on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England, on the role of the Forestry Commission, and on the role of the public forest estate. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations alongside representatives of the forestry industry.

Woodland Biodiversity

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the inclusion of requirements relating to biodiversity for wildlife in woodland and forests in that Department's review of planning guidance. [43064]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government are working closely together to look at the inclusion of requirements relating to biodiversity and woodland as part of the process for preparing the National Planning Policy Framework.

Nature Reserves

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the ownership and management of nature reserve land in England. [43418]

Richard Benyon: Officials and Natural England have been scoping a range of options but the Secretary of State has decided that DEFRA's publicly owned National Nature Reserves (NNRs) will remain in public ownership.

Natural England manages about two thirds of England's NNRs, while the remaining third are managed by organisations approved by Natural England, such as the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and local authorities.

Polar Bears

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the status of the polar bear as an endangered species. [43043]

Richard Benyon: The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List is widely regarded as the most comprehensive and objective evaluation of the conservation status of the world's animal and plant species. According to the Red List, the status of the polar bear is 'vulnerable' which means that it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

While it is generally accepted that the greatest threat to the survival of polar bears continues to be climate change, and the UK is playing its part in tackling that, other domestic threats such as those posed by oil development also exist. Addressing such national threats is the responsibility of the range states themselves. Where international trade in polar bears or their parts exists, however, the UK works through its membership of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to ensure that such trade is sustainable and does not further threaten the species' survival in the wild.

Recycling: Business

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on incentives for recycling for small and medium-sized companies. [43417]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is conducting a review of waste policies in England. The review is due to report in May and will set out the Government's policies to encourage and facilitate recycling by small and medium-sized companies.

Rights of Way

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 922W, on cycling: access, what steps her Department has taken to encourage local authorities to develop new routes for cyclists and horse riders. [43330]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA introduced Rights of Way Improvement Plans to encourage local authorities to take a strategic view of their rights of way networks with the aim of better meeting the needs of all users—but particularly those that were not well served by existing access provision, such as horse riders and cyclists.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the change in distance of rights of way in England in each of the last four years. [43331]

Richard Benyon: No estimate has been made of the change in the quantity in distance of rights of way in England in each of the last four years. The measurement and recording of public rights of way is the responsibility of local highway authorities.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 922W, on cycling: access, what estimate she has made of the change in the distance of rights of way in England in each of the next five years. [43332]

Richard Benyon: No estimate has been made on the likely change in the quantity in distance of public rights of way in England for each of the next five years. The measurement and recording of public rights of way is the responsibility of local highway authorities.

Sewers: Housing

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that new housing developments are only built with sewers that are adopted by the relevant water authority. [43736]

Richard Benyon: A provision already exists in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that, once commenced, will provide for the automatic adoption by sewerage undertakers of newly built sewers and lateral drains that connect with the public sewerage system.

Sewers: Private Sector

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to lay before Parliament regulations on the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains to water and sewerage company ownership. [43189]

Richard Benyon: The regulations to effect the transfer of private sewers are currently being considered in accordance with the Government's principles for better regulation.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will report the outcome in due course.

Sharks: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the purchase of shark fin products. [43036]

Richard Benyon: The UK is committed to the sustainable management and conservation of sharks, and to bringing to an end the wasteful practice known as shark finning, where shark fins are removed at sea, and the rest of the carcass discarded.

The UK has no plans to bring forward legislative proposals on shark fin products. We consider that the most effective means of protecting these species is through working at an EU and international level to better manage fisheries, while, where necessary, seeking to ban the international trade in shark products through the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITIES).

The UK has already taken the strong and proactive decision to ban UK vessels from removing fins from sharks at sea. All UK vessels now have to land sharks with fins naturally attached—a measure that will prevent shark finning. We want this to be the case for all vessels worldwide, and so are leading work on the review of the relevant EU legislation, and will continue to seek international agreement on the issue.

We are also leading the way on shark management in both Europe, and international fisheries management bodies, by calling for appropriate limits to be set on the numbers of sharks that can be caught, and for total bans on catching endangered species.

Squirrels

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department provided for the conservation of the red squirrel population in the latest period for which figures are available. [43024]

Richard Benyon: Natural England is currently focusing red squirrel conservation effort in England on the Red Squirrel Northern England Project. This project was initiated by Natural England and partner organisations following a review of red squirrel conservation activity in northern England.

In 2010-11 Natural England provided funding of c£151,000 for this project which covers:

Setting up the core team.

The creation of a grey squirrel control strategy for each stronghold.

The development of a widely accepted methodology and protocol for monitoring squirrel populations, the efficacy of control and extent of squirrel pox virus.

Developing the partnership and supporting its longer term planning.

Under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), the Forestry Commission awards funding for woodland management (including pest control) through the English Woodland Grant Scheme. DEFRA is the managing authority for the RDPE and is responsible for its implementation under EU law.

Figures for 2009-10 from the English Woodland Grant Scheme:

Woodland Management Grant: £95,250

Woodland Improvement Grant: £159,007

Both relate to expenditure in the Red Squirrel Reserves. Figures for 2010-11 are not currently available.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the conservation of the red squirrel. [43025]

Richard Benyon: In England, the approach to red squirrel conservation is to secure long-term habitat and conditions favouring the red squirrel in areas which grey squirrels have not yet reached in significant numbers and to limit grey squirrel expansion into these areas.

In the south-east, where there are secure populations on the Isle of Wight and Poole Harbour Islands there is an action plan in place to respond to the appearance of grey squirrels. In the north of England 17 reserves have been identified where long-term survival of the species is considered most likely. Targeted control of grey squirrels is carried out in the reserves and surrounding buffer zones. In addition, the reserves and surrounding areas are being managed in ways that favour red squirrels.

The Forestry Commission and Natural England are, on behalf of Government, delivering this policy in partnership with the Red Squirrel Survival Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, landowners and volunteers through the Red Squirrel North England Project.

Swans

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the effects of illegal shooting on the size of the *(a)* whooper and *(b)* Bewick's swan population in the UK during winter periods in each of the last five years. [43044]

Richard Benyon: No estimate has been made of the impact of illegal shooting on UK wintering populations of whooper or Bewick's swan.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has a programme of marking whooper and Bewick's swans, which includes monitoring the extent to which these species carry embedded shotgun pellets in their body tissue and this provides an indication of the extent to which birds are being illegally shot. While there is no evidence to suggest the level of illegal shooting in the UK has a significant impact on populations, it is recognised that such shooting across the full migration range of these species may be significant.

The proportion of Bewick's swans carrying embedded shot has declined in recent decades from 38.8% In the 1980s to 22.7% in the 2000s. The proportion of whooper swans carrying embedded shot has not declined significantly over time, being 14.9% in the 1980s and 13.2% in the 2000s.

For species of high conservation status that are protected throughout their world ranges, this evidence of continued illegal hunting is a significant concern especially given the Bewick's swan population is declining globally and is now significantly below former levels of abundance. Accordingly, the UK is working with other Contracting Parties to the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA) as well as with other interested stakeholders, to raise the profile of the issue and work towards the elimination of this illegal activity. In particular, we are working towards the restoration of the Bewick's swan population to its former level through participation in the development of an AEWA action plan for the species.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the size of the *(a)* whooper and *(b)* Bewick's swan population in the UK during winter periods in each of the last five years. [43045]

Richard Benyon: The most recent available estimates for numbers of whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* and Bewick's swan *Cygnus cygnus bewickii* in the UK are 15,047 and 7,005 individuals respectively, and derive from a co-ordinated international swan census undertaken in January 2005. In the UK the census was undertaken by the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (a partnership between the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee) and the Wetland Bird Survey (organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, RSPB and JNCC in association with WWT).

A further international census was undertaken in January 2010 but the results are not yet available. Monitoring of numbers at key sites through the annual Wetland Bird Survey shows that numbers of whooper swans (which largely migrate from Iceland) have increased since 2005, while numbers of Bewick's swans (which breed in arctic Russia) have continued to show a long-term decline. For these migratory species change in global population levels is an important context to the UK figures as the birds may change their wintering distribution within their wintering ranges. The most recently compiled international trends show that the Icelandic/UK whooper population is increasing, while the Bewick's swan is declining.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42648]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's delivery landscape means we are well-placed to work in partnership to build the big society.

We committed in our Business Plan to work across DEFRA and the delivery network to encourage and enable communities, civil society and public and private organisations to contribute further to the enhancement of the countryside, habitats and the environment.

For example, we have published proposals to increase the accountability of National Parks and we are reforming key public bodies to transfer more power to people and communities. As part of this, British Waterways is to be transferred from Government to a new charity for the waterways in England and Wales through the Public Bodies Bill, and the Environment Agency and Natural England will be reformed to make them more customer-focused.

In addition, in December, DEFRA launched a national campaign to increase tree-planting by the private sector and civil society, including a website where people and community groups can report trees planted.

Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations Ministers in her Department have met in connection with its review of waste policy in England. [43255]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* Ministers and officials have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders through the ongoing review of waste policies, and are continuing to do so as the review progresses. These include representatives of central and local government, environmental groups, businesses throughout the supply chain, the waste management industry and civil society organisations.

Water Charges

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will estimate the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each local authority area in England which will pay 3% or more of their income to meet water costs in each of the next four financial years; [43050]

(2) if she will estimate the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each local authority area in England which paid 3% or more of their income to meet water costs in each of the last four financial years. [43051]

Richard Benyon: Ofwat has estimated the percentage of households that pay more than 3% of their income after housing costs on their water and sewerage bills. Estimates of the percentage of households that pay more than 3% of their total income before housing costs have been deducted on water and sewerage bills are not available.

These estimates are only available by water and sewerage company area and by geographical region, and only for the years 2007-08 and 2009-09.

Water and sewerage company area

	Proportion spending more than 3% of income on water and sewerage bills after housing costs	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Anglian Water	23	23
Northumbrian Water	23	22
United Utilities	25	28
Southern Water	22	22
Severn Trent Water	21	21
South West Water	36	33
Thames Water	19	20
Wessex Water	25	22
Yorkshire Water	23	22
England	22	23

Geographical region

	Proportion spending more than 3% of income on water and sewerage bills after housing costs	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
East Midlands	20	21
Eastern	21	22
London	21	23
North East	24	22
North West and Merseyside	26	28
South East	19	19
South West	27	25
West Midlands	22	21
Yorkshire and Humberside	23	22
England	22	23

Water Supply

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on the merits of defining a measure for water poverty. [44002]

Richard Benyon: There is no recognised definition of "water poverty" because domestic customers cannot be disconnected from supply. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has, however, received a range of representations on the merits of defining a measure for water affordability concerns. We will set out our policy on water affordability in the forthcoming Water White Paper.

Water Supply: Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of climate change on the supply of water in each of the next four years. [43049]

Richard Benyon: Water companies in England and Wales are required to submit water resources management plans every five years and to describe how forecasts in those plans take into account the implications of climate change.

The Environment Agency's 2009 Water Resources Strategy concluded that total annual resources could reduce by up to 15% by the 2050s, with much greater reductions in summer. The Environment Agency encourages all abstractors to use water efficiently and, where new supplies are needed, to opt for flexible sources which are resilient to climate change.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is in progress under the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. The risk assessment includes the water sector and is due to report in January 2012. Under the Adaptation Reporting Power of the Act, individual organisations, including the Environment Agency and water companies in England and Wales, have been making assessments of the current and future predicted impacts of climate change on their organisations, and of their proposals for adapting to climate change.

Whales

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of her Department is on whaling for scientific purposes. [43042]

Richard Benyon: We believe so called 'scientific' whaling undermines the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling and contributes little or nothing to our knowledge of the size and structure of whale populations.

We do not believe that such lethal research is necessary—a great deal of information is already available on whale diets and further data, especially on stocks or populations, can be obtained by non-lethal means.

The UK takes every appropriate opportunity to make its opposition to 'scientific' whaling clear and has called for it to be phased out as quickly as possible.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010; [42295]

(2) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available; [42376]

(3) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42392]

Chris Grayling: The number of staff employed in the Department for Work and Pensions at 31 May 2010 and at the latest date for which figures are available, 30 September 2010. is shown in the following table. Also included in the table is the number of staff who left the Department from 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2010.

	31 May 2010	*30 September 2010*
Staffing		
Headcount	118,363	114,985
Full-time equivalent	107,087	103,668
Leavers		
Headcount	—	3,930
Full-time equivalent	—	3,638

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons persons not employed by Government departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43212]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer that I gave him on 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 459-60W. On grounds of security it would not be appropriate to provide details of the reasons why persons not employed by the Department are issued with passes to allow entry into the Department's premises.

Disability Living Allowance

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what calculation his Department made to arrive at the figure of 20 per cent. as a target for the level of savings on disability living allowance expenditure for working age adults. [42735]

Maria Miller: The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility for the rates of the benefit are currently being developed. Savings estimates will be updated accordingly as a more detailed design is developed. The Chancellor announced in June 2010 that he anticipated that the overall impact of reform will result in savings equivalent to 20% of forecast working age DLA expenditure.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the maximum reduction in housing benefit for working age social tenants *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region as a result of his proposed changes to housing benefit. [43871]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The impact of the proposed changes to housing benefit for working age social tenants has been estimated from data collected from the Department's Family Resources Survey. The data from the Family Resources Survey provide us with detailed information about a nationally representative sample of households, but do not collect information about all households. As a result it is not possible to provide an estimate of the maximum reduction in housing benefit that working age social tenants may experience as a result of the proposed changes, on either a national or regional basis.

An impact assessment for the proposed change to housing benefit for working age social tenants was published in February 2011 to coincide with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the June 2010 Budget Report, what methods his Department used to calculate the savings to the public purse arising from social tenants of working age leaving to occupy a larger property than their household size warrants. [43873]

Steve Webb: The method used to calculate savings from changes to housing benefit for working age social tenants contained within the June 2010 Budget Report was published by HM Treasury in the Budget 2010 policy costings document. The document can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the setting of a target for the eradication of pensioner poverty. [43291]

Steve Webb: My Department has not received any recent representations on setting a target for the eradication of pensioner poverty.

My Department publishes data on the number of pensioners who are in low income assessed against various income thresholds. The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs. The latest figures available show that in 2008-09 there were 16% of pensioners in poverty (1.8 million pensioners). Pensioners are less likely to be living in poverty than the population as a whole when incomes are measured after housing costs.

This measure of the rate of pensioner poverty is one of the proposed key measures in the Government's new transparency framework.

Although my Department does not have an explicit target to eradicate pensioner poverty, this Government want all pensioners to have a decent and secure income in retirement as reflected in the Department's Business Plan.

We are introducing automatic enrolment into workplace pensions from 2012. This is a central element of our strategy to reinvigorate private pension savings and aims to harness inertia and bring about a change in people's behaviour in saving for retirement. We expect this to radically increase the number of people saving into a pension and to lead to between five million and eight million people newly saving or saving more in all forms of workplace pension schemes.

This is in addition to the measures we have already put in place, which include restoring the earnings link for the basic state pension and giving a "triple guarantee" that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, price increases or 2.5%. It is estimated that the average person retiring on a full basic state pension in April 2011 will receive £15,000 more in basic state pension over their retirement than they would have done under the old prices link.

This Government are also protecting key benefits for pensioners. Free eye tests; free prescription charges; free bus passes; free television licences for the over 75s; and winter fuel payments will remain exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government—as we promised. We have also made the temporary increase in the cold weather payment to £25 permanent.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to and we are conducting a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

The changes that we have put in place will provide a more generous state pension giving a solid financial foundation from the state which is essential as part of the pensions system and will help make it easier for people to save into a pension.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provided to pensioners during the recent recession. [43292]

Steve Webb: We have introduced legislation providing for earnings up-rating of the basic state pension from April 2011. We are also providing a "triple guarantee" that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, prices or 2.5%.

In April 2011 we will increase the basic state pension by 4.6% to fulfil a commitment made at the Budget, and increase the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit so that most recipients see the full benefit of the rise in the basic state pension.

We have also protected key support for older people, in recognition of the fact many have worked hard and saved all their lives, including free eye tests, prescriptions, free TV licences for the over 75s, winter fuel payments and free concessionary bus travel.

The Government have permanently increased the cold weather payment from £8.50 a week to £25 a week. Cold weather payments provide real help to those most vulnerable to the cold: disabled adults and children, the elderly and families with children under five who are in receipt of an income related benefit.

Social Security Benefits

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many delays to benefit payments there were in *(a)* Gloucester, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [42712]

Chris Grayling: As the administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, how many delays to benefit payments there were in (a) Gloucester (b) the South West and (c) England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

Jobcentre Plus does not hold figures on delayed benefit payments; so we are unable to supply data for this. We do, however, have formally published targets for the average actual clearance time (AACT) taken to process benefit claims. This covers the main benefits of Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance/Incapacity Benefit. Incapacity Benefit was not included in the published AACT target from 2009/10, because it was replaced by the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). ESA went live on 28 October 2008 so AACT figures for this benefit are only available from October 2008.

The AACT target does not mean that all claims for that benefit are processed within that time as it is an average. We do expect some claims to take longer particularly if the customer's circumstances are complex or there is a delay in the customer returning information required to enable us to process their claim.

For each benefit the target for the AACT in days is in the table below:

	IS	*JSA*	*IB*	*ESA*
2006-07	11	12	18	—
2007-08	11	12	18	—
2008-09	10	11.5	15	[1]—
2009-10	10	11.5	[1]—	16
2010-11	9	11	[1]—	14

[1] No target.

The AACT data relating to Gloucester, The South West and England for ESA, IB, IS and JSA for the last 5 years can be found at Annex 1.

Annex 1

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England					
ESA	—	—	13.86	14.03	10.91
IB	16.01	12.80	13.33	20.13	12.60
IS	11.37	9.34	8.52	7.72	7.11
JSA	14.75	10.74	10.32	10.00	9.25
South West					
ESA	—	—	10.47	12.83	11.21
IB	18.15	10.27	12.36	20.62	8.33
IS	13.33	8.96	8.87	8.03	7.01
JSA	15.22	10.51	9.96	9.92	9.82
Gloucester					
ESA	—	—	14.26	15.09	11.31
IB	19.5	11.4	8.28	24.72	13.98
IS	15.27	9.68	8.93	9.42	7.03
JSA	18.33	10.45	10.36	9.2	9.09

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the households affected by the proposed introduction of a maximum benefit entitlement will be tenants in social housing. [43872]

Steve Webb: If the benefit cap were applied in full, it is estimated that around 70% of those affected by the household cap on total benefit income will be living in social housing.

The estimated number of households affected by the benefit cap is based on survey data using the Department for Work and Pension's Policy Simulation Model. Small sample sizes for those estimated to be affected mean that further estimations of the characteristics of this group are uncertain and should be treated with caution.

Note:

Percentages have been rounded to the nearest 10%.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the potential effects of changes to disability benefits on individuals in North Swindon constituency. [38310]

Maria Miller: Within the Department for Work and Pensions, all budget and spending review measures will be equality impact assessed. Where the detail of policies is still being developed we will publish equality impact assessments at the most appropriate time, for example alongside the Welfare Reform Bill.

Changes to disability benefits are subject to consultation and, therefore, the equality impact assessments will be published at a later date, when policies are finalised.

Where detail of the policy has been finalised equality impact assessments of disability benefit changes have been published and can be found at

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/impact%2Dassessments/equality%2Dimpact%2Dassessments/

We do not have the necessary data to assess the potential impact of change for individuals in North Swindon.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the monetary value of benefits claimed fraudulently in each month since May 2010; [43918]

(2) what his estimate is of the monetary value of benefits claimed fraudulently since 18 October 2010. [43905]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department publishes estimates of fraud and error in the benefit system twice yearly as National Statistics. The publications cover the rolling 12-month periods to either March or September. Statistics for the period from October 2008 to September 2009 were published on 27 May 2010. Monthly estimates are not available.

The estimates of fraud and error in the benefit system for the period to April 2009 to March 2010 were due to be published in November 2010. However, they have been delayed due to additional quality assurance checks. The Department's Head of Profession took the decision in line with the Code of Practice on Official Statistics. They will now be published on 29 March 2011.

The latest estimates of fraud and error in the benefits system can be found at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/index.php?page=fraud_error_arc

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice his Department gives to Atos Healthcare on the frequency of medical assessments for persons diagnosed with reflex sympathetic dystrophy. [43177]

Maria Miller: The Department does not give specific advice to Atos Healthcare on the frequency of medical assessments for people diagnosed with reflex sympathetic dystrophy. Healthcare professionals who carry out assessments for employment and support allowance are required to provide advice on when the person is likely to be able to return to work. This advice is based on the healthcare professional's medical knowledge and varies according to the individual circumstances of the case. This advice is taken into consideration by Jobcentre Plus when setting a review period.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42222]

Mr Maude: The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what regulations his Department introduced between 22 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42090]

Mr Maude: The following statutory instruments have been made between 22 November 2010 and 8 February 2011:

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums (Civil Sanctions) Order 2010—SI 2010/2860;

Buying Agency Trading Fund (Amendment) Order 2010—SI 2010/2930;

Superannuation Act 2010 (Repeal of Limits on Compensation) Order—SI 2010/2996.

Immigrants

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in which 10 countries the most permanent emigrants from the UK settled in the most recent year for which records are available. [43874]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your question asking in which 10 countries the most permanent emigrants from the UK settled in the most recent year for which records are available (43874).

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of Long-Term International Migration which are primarily based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). Detailed information on countries of next residence is available using the IPS component of these estimates.

The attached table shows the top 10 countries of next residence for all emigrants, both UK and foreign nationals. The latest figures included here are for the 2009 calendar year and relate to the number of migrants intending to leave the UK for a period of 12 months or more.

Long-term international migration, estimates from International Passenger Survey: Annual data 2009—Top 10 countries of next residence of all migrants

	Country of next residence	*Out-migrants (Thousand)*	*SE%*
1	Australia	56	5
2	USA	27	10
3	Poland	25	17
4	France	22	23
5	Spain	15	16
6	India	15	9
7	New Zealand	13	10
8	China	11	12
9	Canada	11	12
10	Germany	10	15

Note:

Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error of >25% is not considered to be reliable. For any given estimate there is a 95% probability that the true figure lies in the range: estimate +/- 0.0196 x estimate x standard error %.

NDPBs

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many non-departmental public bodies he expects to have been *(a)* established and *(b)* proposed to be established between 10 May 2010 and 31 December 2011; and if he will make a statement. [42156]

Mr Maude: New non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) will only be set up as an absolutely last resort once all other delivery models have been rigorously explored. In addition, any new NDPB will need to meet one of the three tests which were set out in my statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, 14 October 2010, column 505.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she expects the Government Equalities Office to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43308]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is accommodated in Eland house, the Communities and Local Government (CLG) headquarters building. CLG decide on food sourcing for the catering facilities in Eland house.

Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will take steps to ensure that the published organisational chart of the Government Equalities Office includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum. [43535]

Lynne Featherstone: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43314]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not record the procurement of food by country of origin. To ascertain the standards of production would therefore only be available at disproportionate cost.

Where possible, my Department always aims to use local Northern Ireland produce.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42609]

Mr Paterson: The Compact is an agreement between the Government, their associated non-departmental public bodies, arm's length bodies and executive agencies, and civil society organisations (CSOs) in England. It aims to ensure that the Government and CSOs work effectively in partnership to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens. The Northern Ireland Executive has operational responsibilities for engagement with CSOs in Northern Ireland and has its own arrangements in place. However, where the UK Government have responsibility for funding services provided by CSOs in Northern Ireland, they will honour the commitments made in the Compact in relation to CSOs they fund.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative; [42634]

(2) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42653]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office has an ongoing partnership though its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative with the charity Centrepoint, which works with young homeless people. This partnership has involved a skill exchange between organisations in areas such as communication, policy development and the work of Parliament, as well as some mentoring and fundraising. The Secretary of State and I fully support this relationship and look forward to engaging more fully with it. Staff in the Department have also engaged in fundraising events for charities including MS Society and Depaul Ireland.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Working Hours

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to respond to the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendment for flight time limitations; and if he will make a statement. [41568]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd) of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 177-78W.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the airline industry on the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals to change flight time limitations for pilots. [41629]

Mrs Villiers: I have not so far received any formal representations from the airline industry on this matter.

Buses: Disability Aids

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues on methods for the provision of information on buses in *(a)* audio and *(b)* visual form. [43172]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has commissioned research to assess the costs and benefits of installing audio visual systems on buses. The research project has brought together a cross section of stakeholders, including Guide Dogs, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Royal National Institute for Deaf People. We will be publishing the results, together with guidance, shortly.

Cycling: Accidents

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists were killed in road accidents in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [43110]

Mike Penning: The number of pedal cyclists killed in road accidents reported to the police in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in each of the last five years for which data are available is given in following table:

	Number of fatalities		
	Birmingham	*West Midlands*	*England*
2005	0	7	130
2006	2	9	127
2007	2	10	129
2008	0	9	102
2009	2	11	93

Public Transport: Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the (i) prevalence and (ii) adoption of audiovisual announcement systems on public transport networks in other European countries. [43176]

Norman Baker: In 2005, the Department for Transport commissioned research on 'On-board Information Systems for bus and tram passengers', to establish how costs of audio visual systems could be met. This research covered a range of international countries, including a number of European ones. A copy of this report has been placed in the House Library.

Public Transport: Visual Impairment

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account his Department's plans for an integrated transport system will take of the needs of visually-impaired passengers. [43173]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport continues to seek to improve both access and safety to public transport, including for disabled people.

The Department aims to ensure disabled people, including those with visual impairments, are consulted on any policies that may affect them. In addition, from April 2011, the Department will be required under the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") to have due regard to the effect of any policies on the Act's protected groups, including disabled people. All policies will have to be accompanied by an equality analysis.

Safety Belts: Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the level of seat belt usage among children travelling in *(a)* the front and *(b)* the rear of cars in (i) 1990, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2005 and (iv) the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [R] [43880]

Mike Penning: The percentage of child (aged 0-13) car occupants wearing a seatbelt or using another type of restraint is shown in the table. These figures are based on observational surveys of wearing rates in England which were last carried out in November 2009.

		Percentage
	Front seat	*Rear seat*
October 1990	96	67
October 1997	94	79
October 2005	97	94
November 2009	94	96

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of seat belt and child restraint use in reducing the severity of injury to children involved in car accidents; and if he will make a statement. [43881]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has made no recent assessment of the effectiveness of seat belts and child restraints at protecting children in cars. However, a study undertaken in the USA in 2002 concluded that a properly used child restraint reduced the risk of fatal injury by 71% for infants less than one-year-old and by 54% for toddlers one to four-years-old.

The Government are committed to ensuring the safety of all road users, including children. Regulations in Great Britain require children up to 135 cm in height or 12 years of age, whichever is reached first, to use an appropriate child restraint system for their weight while travelling in most cars.

The number of killed or seriously injured children travelling in cars has reduced by 45% during the period 2003 to 2009.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to answer question 37390 on the removal of regulations tabled on 26 January 2011 for answer on 31 January 2011. [42365]

Mike Penning: The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) answered the hon. Member's question on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 332-333W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the future independence of the Committee on Climate Change. [43992]

Gregory Barker: The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) is an independent, expert body playing a crucial role in advising Government on the level of carbon budgets and the preparedness for climate change in the UK, as required under the Climate Change Act 2008. The CCC's independent role ensures Government decisions on climate change are based on independent, expert advice, ensuring credibility and trust. The Government are committed to maintaining the CCC's independence and have no plans to amend the Climate Change Act.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43211]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 181W.

Electricity

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will direct Ofgem to commission a study of the attitude of consumers to the costs of *(a)* providing infrastructure for (i) underground and (ii) electricity networks and *(b)* providing overhead electricity lines on towers. [43223]

Charles Hendry: The Government have no plans to direct Ofgem to commission a study. However, as part of its transmission price control (RIIO-T1) Ofgem is engaging with stakeholders across a range of matters. Following the publication of its December 2010 RIIO-T1 Initial Strategy Consultation document, Ofgem has been working with the Department and other stakeholders to consider how further guidance might be provided to help network companies and stakeholders consider the broader environmental costs and benefits of their potential investment decisions. The attitude of consumers to the costs through willingness to pay analysis is one tool that could play a role in this process. Ofgem will set out its views in this area in its end-March 2011 RIIO-T1 strategy document and would welcome further engagement on this issue both before publication and as the network companies develop their subsequent business plans.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the prevalence of *(a)* electric and *(b)* magnetic fields from (i) overhead electricity lines, (ii) underground cables and (iii) sub-sea cables. [43224]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Health are responsible for the assessment of risks to health from electric and magnetic fields (EMFs), and they in turn advise other Departments including DECC, although DECC is responsible for technical issues regarding power lines. As an output to the Government response to the first interim report from the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields my Department published on 14 February 2011 two voluntary industry codes of practice about how optimally phasing high voltage lines can help reduce public exposure to EMFs, and setting out how industry can demonstrate compliance with the exposure guidelines for protection of public health. These are available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/development%20consents%20and%20planning%20reform/1255-code-practice-optimum-phasing-power-lines.pdf http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/development%20consents%20and%20planning%20reform/1256-code-practice-emf-public-exp-guidelines.pdf

The Department has not made any further recent assessments for underground or subsea cables.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has discussed with Ofgem the account taken in the pricing regime for National Grid of the cost of *(a)* underground or sub-sea and *(b)* overhead line and tower electricity network infrastructure. [43344]

Charles Hendry: I have not discussed with Ofgem how it takes account of the cost of different forms of network infrastructure. The network companies are responsible for developing their networks in line with their licence obligations and Ofgem considers the costs (and other factors such as need) for electricity networks based on investment proposals put forward by network companies in line with its statutory duties. This would include, where relevant, the costs of undergrounding, and subsea and overhead lines.

Energy: Business

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects on energy-intensive industries of the Government's proposals for electricity market reform and a carbon price support. [41737]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers discuss issues relating to energy policy on a regular basis with ministerial colleagues, including questions relating to energy intensive industries.

The Department is working jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a review of the impact of climate change and energy policies on energy intensive users and I aim to publish findings of the review in the spring.

Environment Protection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's policy on the recommendations of the UN Environment Programme report, Towards a Green Economy. [43692]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has regular meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at which the significant contribution that green growth can make to the future prosperity of the UK is a regular topic. The UN Environment Programme's report, 'Towards a Green Economy', is one of a number of studies that demonstrate this. Its policy recommendations provide further support for Government policy, especially on the need for a strong policy framework to support low-carbon technologies, like renewables and carbon capture and storage, and improvements in energy efficiency.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the tripling of total installed capacity by 2050 indicated in Part 3 of the Revised Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy. [44430]

Gregory Barker: In July the Department published the 2050 Pathways report, which as well as presenting the assumptions lying behind the 2050 Calculator, calculated high-level costs in the large scale power generation sector for six illustrative pathways. The analysis set out cost figures for the physical capital; fixed and variable operating costs; fuel; nuclear decommissioning and waste; and infrastructure (such as the electricity transmission and distribution network). It does not consider the cost of financing, carbon, electricity imports, research and development, behavioural change or wider macro-economic impacts. Each of these pathways showed a marked increase in electricity demand, up to a doubling in some cases.

The six illustrative pathways that reached the 2050 target involve a shift from expenditure on fuel, such as fossil fuels, to upfront expenditure on capital, such as building low carbon power plants. Compared with a reference case where little action is taken to address climate change, average annual fuel costs are £5-12 billion lower in six illustrative pathways over the period to 2050, while average annual capital costs for the same period are £7-17 billion per year higher. The annual fuel costs are undiscounted, and the relative costs of the high and low carbon pathways are heavily dependent on the assumptions made about technology costs and fossil fuel prices.

As promised in the July publication, the Department is continuing to explore this area in further detail, and will publish an updated version of the Calculator including costs data later this year. Respondents to our Call for Evidence in October indicated strong public support for this course of action.

Further detailed analysis looking at the cost of electricity generation in the short- and medium-term is being carried out in conjunction with the Electricity Market Reform project, which is to report later in the year.

Fuel Poverty

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of households that spent *(a)* 9 per cent., *(b)* 8 per cent. and *(c)* 7 per cent. of their income to achieve a satisfactory heating regime as defined in the 2001 UK fuel poverty strategy. [43704]

Gregory Barker: A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate standard of warmth, as such fuel poverty measures required spending rather than actual spending. This definition of fuel expenditure also includes spending on water heating, lights and appliance usage and cooking costs. The following table shows the number of households in England in 2008, the latest year for which this information is available, which were required to spend between 7 and 10% of their income to achieve an adequate standard of warmth.

Percentage of income required to spend on energy	*Number of households (Thousand)*
Between 9 and 10% (latter included)	837
Between 8 and 9% (latter included)	1,099
Between 7 and 8% (latter included)	1,373

Smart Electricity Grid

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Department of Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the allocation of spectrum for smart electricity grid purposes. [41771]

Charles Hendry: The Department has not met with the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to discuss allocation of spectrum for smart electricity grid purposes, though officials in the two Departments have discussed the broadband policy process and industry views on infrastructure sharing.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the levels of air passenger duty in relation to aviation taxation regimes in other countries in the EU and G20; and if he will make a statement. [43439]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W, to the hon. Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter)

Capital Allowance Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to expand the enhanced capital allowance scheme to increase the use of remanufactured energy-saving equipment. [43731]

Justine Greening: All taxes are kept under review and announcements on tax policy are made at Budget. The ECA scheme for energy efficient products is reviewed and updated annually by DECC. Only new technologies qualify for an enhanced capital allowance relief.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43320]

Justine Greening: Catering services for the Treasury building are supplied by a sub-contractor to Exchequer Partnerships, the Treasury's PFI supplier. The services provided were accredited by Assured Food Standards in July 2010, enabling them to display the Red Tractor logo within establishments where they provide a catering service.

Departmental Location

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43480]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury staff are currently based in London and Norwich. However, there are no current plans to move any staff or offices of HM Treasury to Brighton.

Energy: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what agreements on energy subsidy reform were reached at the recent G20 meeting of finance Ministers and central bank governors. [43037]

Justine Greening: At the G20 summit in Seoul on 11-12 November 2010, leaders asked their finance and energy Ministers to report back on the progress made in implementing country-specific strategies at the November 2011 summit in France. At the recent G20 meeting of finance Ministers and central bank governors in Paris on 18-19 February 2011 a wide range of issues were discussed, including on energy.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 20 December 2010 concerning a constituent, Mr Kerwin. [43798]

Justine Greening: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Public Expenditure

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to table 1.1 of the June 2010 Budget, what spending consolidation he plans to implement in 2011-12 in addition to the consolidation for that year planned by the previous administration; [39105]

(2) how much of the spending consolidation in 2011-12 is to be attributed to the activity of the previous administration. [39178]

Danny Alexander: As per Table 1.1 of the June Budget and Table A.2 of the spending review, the previous Government's spending cuts in 2011-12, compared to 2010-11, amount to £14 billion; while the Government's spending cuts in 2011-12, compared to 2010-11, amount to £16 billion.

Wealth Redistribution

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the monetary causes of wealth redistribution; and if he will make a statement. [43334]

Justine Greening: The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) is a large scale nationally representative longitudinal survey of over 30,000 private households in Great Britain that provides comprehensive information on people's assets and net wealth. The first wave was conducted from July 2006 to June 2008. It collected detailed information on financial and non-financial assets, and wealth components such as savings, pensions, property, mortgages and debt as well as people's attitudes and savings behaviour over time.

Extensive analysis of the distribution of wealth using the Wealth and Assets data is available in "Wealth in Great Britain 2006-08" at the following web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf

Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken in respect of the assets held in the UK of the former Tunisian president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali and his associates. [43768]

Justine Greening: On 4 February the EU adopted Council Regulation (EU) No 101/2011 which imposed an asset freeze on Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali and his associates. The regulation has direct effect in the UK, and consequently an asset freeze is now in place against Ben Ali and 47 other individuals.

To date HM Treasury has received no reports of funds held in the UK by persons designated under Regulation 101/2011.

HOME DEPARTMENT

DNA: Databases

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many samples have been added to the DNA database in each police authority area in the last five years; and how many of those samples were for people who were not subsequently convicted of a criminal offence. [41727]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: DNA samples are not in themselves added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD), but are analysed and converted into a DNA profile which is then added to the NDNAD. The following table shows the number of subject DNA profiles held on the NDNAD by each of the police forces in England and Wales as at 31 December 2010.

These data are based on a snapshot of the NDNAD as at 31 December 2010. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The most recent figures available for England and Wales show that at 31 March 2010 there were an estimated 4,946,613 persons on the NDNAD, of whom 22 % (an estimated 1,083,207 persons) did not have a current conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on PNC. A breakdown by force is not available.

Breakdown of the subject sample profiles on the NDNAD by police force from the creation of the NDNAD to 31 December 2010

Police force	*Number of subject profiles on NDNAD*
Avon and Somerset	137,560
Bedfordshire	61,817
British Transport police	60,843
Cambridgeshire	69,167
Cheshire	100,456
City of London	27,618
Cleveland	66,113
Cumbria	57,868
Derbyshire	108,978
Devon and Cornwall	140,042
Dorset	63,395
Durham	64,465
Dyfed-Powys	60,483
Essex	163,285
Gloucestershire	58,265
Greater Manchester police	309,393
Gwent	65,363
Hampshire	183,722
Hertfordshire	95,108
Humberside	103,277
Kent	176,460
Lancashire	183,196
Leicestershire	83,343
Lincolnshire	63,120
Merseyside	197,553
Metropolitan police	1,041,896
Norfolk	79,540
Northamptonshire	56,917
Northumbria	205,177
North Wales	73,799
North Yorkshire	71,235
Nottinghamshire	127,994
South Wales	144,039
South Yorkshire	146,952
Staffordshire	129,833
Suffolk	61,555
Surrey	75,388
Sussex	141,431
Thames Valley	196,665
Warwickshire	41,100
West Mercia	96,779
West Midlands	354,847
West Yorkshire	263,862
Wiltshire	64,534
Total	6,074,433

Note:
The figures provided are for the number of subject profiles retained; this is not the same as the number of people retained.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students entering the UK on a student visa were refused entry at the border in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [43085]

Damian Green: From 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010, a total of 4,949 students were refused entry at the UK Border, of which 1,088 are recorded as holding visas. The details for each calendar year are set out in the following table:

	Number of persons seeking entry as a student refused entry	*Number of persons holding a visa seeking entry as a student refused entry*
2007	1,121	128
2008	1,048	156
2009	1,139	288
2010	1,641	516
Total	4,949	1,088

The data are from a live departmental database and have not been subject to the detailed data-cleansing required for National Statistics. They are therefore provisional and subject to modification.

Newport Passport Office: Closures

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral evidence of the Minister of State for Immigration to the Welsh Affairs Committee on 10 November 2010, HC 590, column 73, if she will publish the consultation document on the closure of Newport Passport Office. [43910]

Damian Green: The collective consultation with staff, trade unions and interested parties on the proposed closure of the passport application processing centre at Newport is due to end on 18 March 2011. Ministers will decide on how best to reduce the excess capacity in the application processing network in the light of the outcome of the consultation exercise. A summary of responses and the papers used during the consultation process will be published following that decision.

Police: Fees and Charges

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue accrued to police forces from charges for the return of stolen vehicles to their owners in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Leeds North West constituency in each year since 2005. [43181]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The police are empowered to order the removal of any vehicle that is dangerously, obstructively or illegally parked, or broken down, or abandoned, including vehicles abandoned after being stolen. Such removals necessarily incur significant costs. To meet these costs, the law authorises the police in every case to levy on the vehicle owners charges prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Prostitution

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to extend the sex worker diversion scheme pilot to London boroughs other than Newham. [43787]

Lynne Featherstone: The Safe Exit Diversion Scheme in Newham is a recent expansion of a scheme that has been running since 2006 in Tower Hamlets. The scheme is run by the charitable organisation, Toynbee Hall. It is not a scheme piloted by the Home Office.

The Government are currently looking at the approaches taken towards prostitution in different local areas throughout England and Wales in order to identify effective practice in terms of policing, exiting prostitution, minimising harm and multi-agency working. Effective practice guidance for local areas will be published later in the spring.

Shotgun Certificates

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shotgun certificate holders there are in each parliamentary constituency. [43821]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available centrally. The Home Office only holds data on shotgun certificates broken down by police force area. The most recent figures are available at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0510.pdf

The figures for 2009/10 are planned to be published on 24 March 2011.

Vetting: Buses

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislative provisions she plans to introduce to remove the requirement on coach drivers working for a single employer and taking children to school across two or more local authority boundaries to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check in respect of each local authority. [43618]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The criminal records disclosure regime provides eligibility for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks, rather than legal requirements, for those working in sensitive areas such as work with children or vulnerable adults.

Changes to the disclosure regime proposed in the Protection of Freedoms Bill aim to increase the portability of disclosures, by enabling an employer to check a previous CRB disclosure and verify that no new information has since come to light.

HEALTH

Blood

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the budget to be allocated to blood and transplants following the implementation of the proposals in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement. [43167]

Anne Milton: There are no proposals in "Healthy Lives Healthy People" regarding the budget for blood and transplants.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), which supplies blood, solid organs and tissues to hospitals in England, receives grant in aid from the Department which includes the cost of organ retrieval services. NHSBT recovers the cost of collecting, processing, testing and issuing each blood component from the hospitals.

The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 gives the NHS Commissioning Board the power to commission certain health services including those specialised services, such as transplant services, which are currently commissioned at a national and regional level. These services will be referred to in the annual mandate and specified in detail in regulations.

Blood: Donors

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place in relation to a recipient of donated blood tracing the donor; and if he will make a statement. [43354]

Anne Milton: Personal details of people who have donated blood are confidential and are kept securely by NHS Blood and Transplant. These details are not released to any third party without consent unless allowed or required by law.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of blood donors on the donor register who are unknowingly infected with CJD; and if he will make a statement. [43355]

Anne Milton: The prevalence of infective donors remains unknown. A study of stored tissue samples found abnormal prion protein in three appendices out of 12,674 samples. This suggests a prevalence of about one in 4,000, though with very wide confidence interval of between one in 1,400 and one in 20,000. On the expert advice of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, this single study is given considerable weight, though a larger subsequent study suggests a lower range of estimates. Not all of the individuals in the first study would be of an age eligible to donate blood, nor is it clear whether presence of abnormal prion protein in tissues such as the appendix or tonsils indicates that the blood of such a donor would transmit variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). All precautionary measures are assessed in the context of the fundamental uncertainties about prevalence.

The Department commissioned and uses a study, published in 2003 by DNV Consulting (London) which assessed the magnitude of the risk from infection with vCJD in blood and blood products. Based on this, the Department has published its own risk assessment which underpins departmental policy, which can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Communicablediseases/CJD/CJDgeneralinformation/DH_4136944

A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43474]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no current programme to relocate posts or staff out of London but this will be reviewed as part of the Department's wider transition programme and associated changes to workforce and responsibilities. At present, the Department has no specific plans to relocate civil servant posts or staff to Brighton.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011; [42087]

(2) what regulations his Department removed between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42093]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is in the following tables.

Statutory Instruments revoked between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011

SI revoked	*By SI*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*	*SI number*
The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2009 (2009/3030)	The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2010	18 November 2010	24 November 2010	1 January 2011	2010/2798
The Flavourings in Food Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/1971) The Flavourings in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/1486)	The Flavourings in Food (England) Regulations 2010	23 November 2010	26 November 2010	20 January 2011	2010/2817
The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2001 (Articles 6 and 7 only) (SI 2001/1330)	The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	13 January 2011	—	1 February 2011	2011/57

Statutory Instruments revoked between 24 November 2010 and 8 February 2011

SI revoked	*By SI*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*	*SI number*
The Food (Jelly Mini-Cups) (Emergency Control) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3230)	The Food (Jelly Mini-Cups) (Emergency Control) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011	2 February 2011	8 February 2011	31 March 2011	2011/213

[1] Not required to be laid (Published 18 January 2011).

Statutory Instruments introduced before Parliament for the period 24 November 2010 to 8 February 2011

SI title	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*	*SI Number*
The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2010	18 November 2010	24 November 2010	1 January 2011	2010/2798
The Flavourings in Food (England) Regulations 2010	23 November 2010	26 November 2010	20 January 2011	2010/2817
The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010	24 November 2010	[1]—	1 January 2011	2010/2841
The Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Amendment Order	16 December 2010	20 December 2010	17 January 2011	2010/2998
The Lewisham Hospital National Health Service Trust (Change of Name) Order	7 December 2010	[2]—	1 January 2011	2010/2918
The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	13 January 2011	[3]—	1 February 2011	2011/57
The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	25 January 2011	28 January 2011	1 April 2011	2011/136
The Food (Jelly Mini-Cups) (Emergency Control) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011	2 February 2011	8 February 2011	31 March 2011	2011/213
The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	5 February 2011	8 February 2011	1 March 2011	2011/231

[1] Laid in draft 26 July 2010 Final Publication 1 December 2010.

[2] Not required to be laid (Published 10 December 2010).

[3] Not required to be laid (Published 18 January 2011).

Diseases

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on its proposed strategy to deal with rare diseases; and if he will make a statement. [43272]

Mr Simon Burns: Officials in the Department have held meetings with the devolved Administrations and also met with several key stakeholders as part of the development of a plan for rare disease. The plan will be ready by 2013 in line with the Council Recommendation.

Food: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the entry of products derived from genetically modified organisms into the UK food chain. [43415]

Anne Milton: The Government believe that regulatory decisions on the entry of products derived from genetically modified organisms into the United Kingdom food chain should be based on a robust, case-by-case assessment of the potential impact on human health and the environment, taking full account of the scientific evidence.

Health Visitors: North East England

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the new health visitor posts announced by his Department will be *(a)* full-time and *(b)* located in the North East. [43018]

Anne Milton: The 'Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15', published on 8 February 2011, was accompanied by a national health service management letter, which was issued to all chief executives at strategic health authorities in England and all chief executives of primary care trusts in England. The letter provides indicative trajectories of work force growth in full time equivalents for 2011-12 at a regional, strategic health authority level.

Copies of the Implementation Plan and management letter have already been placed in the Library.

Strategic health authorities will need to work with their primary care trusts to commission against the commitment of increasing overall numbers of health visitors by 4,200 (full-time equivalent) by April 2015.

Maternity Services: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS's budget for maternity services is in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [43076]

Anne Milton: Primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations for 2010-11 and 2011-12 have been announced. No national budgets have been set for maternity services.

We have set out our intention to protect the national health service budget in line with inflation over the course of the spending review, and NHS funding for maternity services is within this total.

It is for PCTs to determine how much to spend on maternity services in the light of local circumstances and the NHS Operating Framework. The provision of safe, high quality maternity services, which are focused on improving both outcomes for women and babies and women's experience of care, is a priority for the NHS in the Outcomes Framework for 2011-12 that was published on 20 December 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Blackpool North and Cleveleys (Paul Maynard) of 16 December 2010. [43551]

Anne Milton: A reply to the letter from the hon. Member of 16 December 2010 was sent on 2 March 2011.

Mental Illness: Prisoners

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners diagnosed with acute and severe mental illness were transferred to an appropriate healthcare setting in each of the last five years. [43514]

Paul Burstow: These data are collected on a quarterly basis and are shown in the following table. Data are not currently available beyond the first quarter of 2010-11.

Number of prisoners in England with acute and severe mental illness and who were transferred to appropriate healthcare settings: per quarter 2006-07 to 2010-11

	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
2006-07	300	313	341	264	1,218
2007-08	296	300	319	280	1,195
2008-09	342	307	335	294	1,278
2009-10	320	323	356	268	1,278
2010-11	268	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available

Source:

Offender Health Quarterly Regional Prison Health Performance and Quality Indicators

Midwives: Insurance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to assist independent midwives with access to professional indemnity insurance provided by the NHS. [42057]

Anne Milton: The Department is working with groups of independent midwives to encourage them to form social enterprises, which may help them negotiate contracts to deliver maternity services to the national health service.

The Government published their response to Finley Scott's "Independent review of requirement to have insurance or indemnity as a condition of registration as a healthcare professional" at the end of 2010. Recommendation 20 of the review said:

> "In relation to groups for whom the market does not provide affordable insurance or indemnity, the four health departments should consider whether it is necessary to enable the continued availability of the services provided by these groups; and, if so, the health departments should seek to facilitate a solution".

We agree with this recommendation and will take forward work on a case-by-case basis where this is appropriate.

Midwives: Training

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the budget to be allocated to midwifery training places following the implementation of the proposals in the public health White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People; and if he will make a statement. [43165]

Anne Milton: Funding to support midwifery training is part of the Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) as part of the national health service central budget bundle. The MPET budget is not calculated on a profession specific basis and responsibility for how it is invested lies with SHAs.

SHAs, in conjunction with their associated deaneries, higher education institutions, primary care trusts and NHS trusts are responsible for commissioning the appropriate level of midwifery training posts to meet the needs of the local population. From 2011-12 the SHAs and associated national health service organisations will be expected to take account of the training recommendations produced by the Centre for Workforce Intelligence when planning and commissioning their trainee numbers.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conditions a hospital must meet to achieve foundation status. [43032]

Mr Simon Burns: The requirements for a national health service trust to achieve foundation trust status is set out in the publication 'Applying for NHS Foundation Trust Status—Guide to Applicants'. This is available on Monitor's website at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/becoming-nhs-foundation-trust/guidance-applicants-november-2008

NHS: Private Patients

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals provide treatment to private patients; and what the *(a)* limit on numbers, *(b)* income, *(c)* expenditure and *(d)* amount owed by private patients was for each such hospital in each of the last five years. [41820]

Mr Simon Burns: Only some of this information is available. The information that is collected centrally on income earned from private patients is provided below, separately for national health service trusts and for NHS foundation trusts.

In respect of income, the figures have been placed in the Library. These figures represent income from private patients in NHS trusts for the last five years (2005-06 to 2009-10). The source of this data is the audited summarisation schedules, from which the NHS (England) Summarised Accounts are prepared.

Those NHS trusts which do not have private patient income (in each year) are not included in the tables.

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts (FTs). Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust. In the table, this is evident where the organisation name includes "Foundation Trust".

Information on numbers of private patients, expenditure (on private patients), and the amount owed by private patients is not separately identifiable from the NHS trust audited summarisation schedules.

FTs are currently restricted on the amount of income they can earn from private charges, otherwise known as the "private patient income cap", where each organisation is unable to earn in any financial year a higher proportion of its total income from private charges than it derived from private charges in the year 2002-03.

The chairman of Monitor (the Independent Regulator of NHS FTs) has provided information on the amount of income derived from private charges by FTs in each of the last five years, as shown in the following table. Neither Monitor nor the Department holds the other information sought on numbers of private patients, expenditure (on private patients), and the amount owed by private patients.

FTs private patient income

£ million

	Amount	*Re-stated*
2004-05	73.3	—
2005-06	98.4	—
2006-07	124	—
2007-08	165.6	165.2
2008-09	189.8	190.1
2009-10	223.5	—

Note:

FTs can restate the prior year's accounts, so the figure with restated is the new one but the other figure was also previously published.

Spinal Injuries: Surgery

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* complex spinal, *(b)* scoliosis and *(c)* primary anterior lumber surgery procedures have been carried out in each hospital trust in each of the last three years. [42311]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is contained in the following tables. Following clinical coding advice, we are unable to provide data for complex spinal procedures as this is not a term which we are able to relate to available clinical codes.

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] where 'scoliosis surgery' was the main or secondary operative procedure[2] by hospital provider[3], 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[4]		
Provider	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	47	59	54
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	0	*	*
Barts and the London NHS Trust	*	0	*
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	31	0	*
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*	0	0
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	20	34	35
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	79	76	49
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	6	*	*
Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	*
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	0	*	0
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	0	*	*
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	0
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	111	86	127
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	53	68	62
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	0	*	*
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	8	6	0
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	0	*	0
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	*
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	0
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	*
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	43	43	66
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	*	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	79	71	66
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	26	36	41
North Bristol NHS Trust	66	60	89
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	0
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	79	87	110
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	50	16	32
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	*	58	72

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] where 'scoliosis surgery' was the main or secondary operative procedure[2] by hospital provider[3], 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[4]		
Provider	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	*
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	0	*	0
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	*
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust	14	12	17
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	0
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	6	12	20
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	354	329	343
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	101	96	100
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	*	0	*
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	30	25	41
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	69	57	60
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11	16	26
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	43	41	23
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	48	50	71
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	*
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	*
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	*	*	10
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	17	32	22
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	*	0	0
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	*	*
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	*
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	0
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	39	44	33
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	0	*	0
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	*	*	0
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	*
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	0
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	*	0	0
Total	1,448	1,442	1,600

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] where 'primary anterior lumbar surgery procedures' was the main or secondary operative procedure[2] for hospital providers[3], 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[4]		
Provider	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	9	9
Airedale NHS Trust	0	8	0
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	*
Ashtead Hospital	0	*	*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	6	11	9
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	13
Barts and the London NHS Trust	7	*	10
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	7	*
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	*
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation	*	*	*
BMI—Goring Hall Hospital	0	0	*
BMI—The Beardwood Hospital	0	0	*
BMI-The Hampshire Clinic	0	0	*
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	14	10	12
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	7	6	*
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	7	11	15
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8	19	*
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	0
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	0	21	10
Claremont Hospital	0	*	6
Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	19	24	7

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] where 'primary anterior lumbar surgery procedures' was the main or secondary operative procedure[2] for hospital providers[3], 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[4]		
Provider	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	0
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	*	0	*
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	9	*	*
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	*
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	*
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	0	*	*
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	*
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	7
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	12
Fitzwilliam Hospital	0	*	8
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	*
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	*	*
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	12	*	*
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	*
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	21	20	18
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	*
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	0
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	6	7	*
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	*	*	*
Horder Centre—St Johns Road	0	0	*
Hull and East Riding Hospital	*	0	0
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	*
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	15	21	19
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	*	*	*
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	8	0	*
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	0
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	8	28	43
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10	9	0
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	21	36	24
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	*	0	0
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	*
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	*	0	0
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	9	7	7
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	*
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*	0	0
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	0	*	*
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	*	0
New Hall Hospital	0	0	*
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	20	18	18
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	*	*	*
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	12	9	6
North Bristol NHS Trust	6	*	11
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	9	*	*
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	9	0	0
North Downs Hospital	0	0	*
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	*	7	*
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	*	*	*
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	*	6	*
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	*	0	0
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	*	*	*
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	*	24	21
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre PCT Trust	*	*	0
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals PCT Trust	15	29	33
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals PCT Foundation Trust	0	*	0
Plymouth Hospitals PCT Trust	13	11	9
Portsmouth Hospitals PCT Trust	12	15	24

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] *where 'primary anterior lumbar surgery procedures' was the main or secondary operative procedure*[2] *for hospital providers*[3], *2007-08 to 2009-10*

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[4]		
Provider	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Princess Alexandra Hospital PCT Trust	*	6	*
Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn PCT Trust	*	0	+
Regency Hospital	0	*	0
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust	*	*	*
Rotherham PCT Foundation Trust	*	0	0
Royal Berkshire PCT Foundation Trust	7	*	*
Royal Devon and Exeter PCT Foundation Trust	58	50	72
Royal Free Hampstead PCT Trust	*	*	*
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital	*	*	6
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital PCT Trust	103	64	93
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital PCT Foundation Trust	31	20	16
Royal United Hospital Bath PCT Trust	*	*	*
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals PCT Trust	0	*	*
Salford Royal PCT Foundation Trust	7	8	10
Salisbury PCT Foundation Trust	*	0	*
Sheffield Children's PCT Foundation Trust	7	6	7
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals PCT Foundation Trust	7	10	*
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital PCT Trust	*	*	*
South Tees Hospitals PCT Foundation Trust	19	20	30
Southampton University Hospitals PCT Trust	6	7	11
Southend University Hospital PCT Foundation Trust	15	21	15
Spire Bushey Hospital	0	0	*
Spire Cheshire Hospital	0	*	*
Spire Fylde Coast Hospital	0	0	*
Spire Manchester Hospital	0	*	0
Spire Roding Hospital	0	*	*
Spire Washington Hospital	0	*	*
St George's Healthcare PCT Trust	6	*	*
St Saviour's Hospital	*	0	0
Stockport PCT Foundation Trust	*	10	25
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare PCT Trust	*	*	8
Sussex Orthopaedic PCT Treatment Centre	*	*	0
Tameside Hospital PCT Foundation Trust	*	0	0
Taunton and Somerset PCT Foundation Trust	*	6	12
Trafford Healthcare PCT Trust	0	*	*
United Lincolnshire Hospitals PCT Trust	*	*	*
University College London Hospitals PCT Foundation Trust	16	13	*
University Hospital Birmingham PCT Foundation Trust	*	11	11
University Hospital of North Staffordshire PCT Trust	6	*	*
University Hospital of South Manchester PCT Foundation Trust	0	*	0
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire PCT Trust	36	40	8
University Hospitals of Leicester PCT Trust	*	0	*
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay PCT Trust	*	0	0
Walsall Hospitals PCT Trust	*	*	*
Walton Centre PCT Foundation Trust	*	*	*
West Hertfordshire Hospitals PCT Trust	*	*	*
Weston Area Health PCT Trust	0	*	0
Whipps Cross University Hospital PCT Trust	*	10	8
Whittington hospital NHS trust	*	6	0
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare PCT Trust	6	*	0
Winfield Hospital	0	0	*
York Hospitals PCT Foundation Trust	*	*	*

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] where 'primary anterior lumbar surgery procedures' was the main or secondary operative procedure[2] for hospital providers[3], 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector[4]		
Provider	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Yorkshire Clinic	0	6	*
Total (England)	737	821	846

Notes:
Small numbers
To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

[1] Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2(a)] Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure
The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.
The OPCS and ICD10 codes used for 'scoliosis surgery' are;
V42.2 Epiphysiodesis of spinal apophyseal joint for correction of deformity
V42.4 Anterior and posterior epiphysiodesis of spine for correction of deformity
V42.5 Anterior epiphysiodesis of spine for correction of deformity NEC
V42.6 Posterior epiphysiodesis of spine for correction of deformity NEC.
V41.1 Posterior attachment of correctional instrument to spine
V41.2 Anterior attachment of correctional instrument to spine
V41.3 Removal of correctional instrument from spine
V41.4 Anterior and posterior attachment of correctional instrument to spine
V41.8 Other specified instrumental correction of deformity of spine
V41.9 Unspecified instrumental correction of deformity of spine
Please note that the assignment of the above codes is not limited to the treatment of scoliosis therefore the above OPCS code were used in combination with the relevant ICD-10 codes for the diagnosis 'scoliosis':
M41.-Scoliosis
M96.5 Postradiation scoliosis
Q76.3 Congenital scoliosis due to congenital bony malformation
The OPCS codes used for 'primary anterior lumbar surgery' procedures are as follows:
(a) The following OPCS codes specifically classify primary anterior procedures/interventions performed on the lumbar spine:
V25.7 Primary anterior corpectomy of lumbar spine and reconstruction HFQ
V33.3 Primary anterior excision of lumbar intervertebral disc and interbody fusion of joint of lumbar spine
V33.4 Primary anterior excision of lumbar intervertebral disc NEC
V33.5 Primary anterior excision of lumbar intervertebral disc and posterior graft fusion of joint of lumbar spine
V33.6 Primary anterior excision of lumbar intervertebral disc and posterior instrumentation of lumbar spine
(b) The following codes classify primary anterior procedures that are not limited to the lumbar spine and may also be performed on other areas of the spine. Therefore a site code was added in a secondary position to the codes listed below in order to identify that the procedure was performed on the lumbar spine:
V41.2 Anterior attachment of correctional instrument to spine
V41.4 Anterior and posterior attachment of correctional instrument to spine
V42.4 Anterior and posterior epiphysiodesis of spine for correction of deformity
V42.5 Anterior epiphysiodesis of spine for correction of deformity NEC
V44.2 Anterior decompression of fracture of spine
As stated above, one of the following site codes must be assigned in a secondary position in order to identify that the procedure was performed on the lumbar spine:
Z66.5 Lumbar vertebra
Z67.5 Lumbar intervertebral joint
Z67.6 Lumbosacral joint
Z99.3 Intervertebral disc of lumbar spine

2(b) Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[3] Hospital Provider
Any organisation acting as a provider of hospital care (e.g. an NHS Trust, NHS Foundation Trust or independent provider). Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

[4] Activity included: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

vCJD

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to screen *(a)* the UK blood supply and *(b)* blood donors for vCJD. [43356]

Anne Milton: No such screening can yet take place at present as there are no validated blood screening tests for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease available. The Department, together with the United Kingdom Blood Services, continues to monitor scientific research and development in this area.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the merits of removing the warning Risk of Adverse Reaction Infection Including vCJD from blood bags; and if he will make a statement; [43357]

(2) for what reasons his Department places the warning Risk of Adverse Reaction Infection Including vCJD on blood bags. [43358]

Anne Milton: To comply with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practice the United Kingdom Blood Services place warnings on blood bags as a final alert to clinical staff that blood components, being of human origin, always carry a potential risk of transmission of infection. Transfusions can also cause other unpredictable side effects, such as allergic reactions. Though fortunately any such events are rare, there is no intention to remove warnings from blood bags.

Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) is mentioned specifically on blood pack labels because it is a relatively new and rare infection. There have been three cases where blood has been the presumed route of vCJD transmission, all from donations in 1999 or before, from donations where the donor later went on to develop clinical vCJD to a recipient who themselves later went on to develop clinical vCJD.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure the provision of advice to people who are about to receive blood or blood components on the risk of infection of vCJD. [43359]

Anne Milton: Guidance from the Department places responsibility on Hospital Transfusion Committees to ensure that patients who are likely to receive a blood transfusion are given timely information, informing them of the indication for transfusion, the risks and benefits of transfusion, and any available alternatives to transfusion.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) provides a patient information leaflet for hospital staff to give to patients who may receive a transfusion. It indicates that patients should be told that transfusions should only be given if the benefits outweigh the risks, and they should be informed of alternatives to transfusion if these are appropriate and available. The infective risks of blood transfusion are clearly stated. The section on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) specifically states:

> "Although the risk of getting variant CJD is probably low from a single transfusion, the risk of any infection will increase with additional blood transfusions. Each year approximately 2 million units of blood are transfused in England, and there have just been a handful of cases where patients are known to have become infected with vCJD from a blood transfusion."

The leaflet is publicly available on the NHSBT website at:

http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/pdf/INF_PCS_HL_001_05_will_i_need_leaflet_ENGLISH.pdf

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Kosovo: Human Rights

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe plan to take in response to the recommendations addressed to the member states of the EU and to other contributing states in Resolution 1782 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, passed on 25 January 2011, on the investigation of allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. [43794]

Mr Lidington: Council of Europe colleagues will each reach their own independent decisions as to what steps they might take in response to the recommendations set out in Resolution 1782.

The Government expect any allegations of the kind raised in Dick Marty's report to be treated seriously. We therefore fully support the decision of the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) to open a preliminary investigation and believe that EULEX has the mandate, authority and jurisdiction to conduct such an investigation.

We welcome the Government of Kosovo's public undertakings to cooperate with this investigation, as most recently underlined by Acting Foreign Minister Citaku at the United Nations Security Council last month.

The Government continue to call for all relevant individuals and organisations to respond to any requests from EULEX for information or evidence.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment *(a)* he and *(b)* the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe have made of the allegations in Resolution 1782 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, passed on 25 January 2011, on the investigation of allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. [43807]

Mr Lidington: Council of Europe colleagues will each reach their own independent assessments of the allegations set out in Resolution 1782 and what steps they might take in response.

These are serious allegations and the Government believe they must be investigated thoroughly. We therefore fully support the decision of the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) to open a preliminary investigation and believe that EULEX has the mandate, authority and jurisdiction to conduct such an investigation.

We welcome the Government of Kosovo's public undertakings to cooperate with this investigation, as most recently underlined by Acting Foreign Minister Citaku last month at the United Nations Security Council.

The Government continue to call for all relevant individuals and organisations to respond to any requests from EULEX for information or evidence.

North Africa and Middle East: Press Freedom

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of journalists in *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Tunisia, *(c)* Yemen, *(d)* Morocco, *(e)* Bahrain, *(f)* Iran and *(g)* Algeria. [43909]

Alistair Burt: The information requested is as follows.

Libya

We have serious concerns regarding freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Libya which we continue to raise. The UK drove through a UN Security Council Resolution which demanded the lifting of restrictions on the internet and media and an end to the intimidation and detention of journalists. We are clear that the Libyan regime must heed the calls of the international community. We note that the Libyan Government have recently opened its borders to foreign journalists.

Tunisia

During the Ben Ali regime media was heavily restricted and there were regular reports of journalists imprisoned for negative coverage of the Government. Since Ben Ali left Tunisia on 14 January 2011 the press have experienced unprecedented freedom. With the country undergoing significant reform we will be monitoring this situation closely over the coming months.

Yemen

While legislation exists in Yemen to protect media freedoms, in practice self-censorship is widespread as independent media, especially if allegedly linked to those opposed to the Government of Yemen, face sustained Government harassment.

In September 2010, the EU issued a demarche criticising the treatment of journalists opposed to government policy. Recent reports from Yemen suggest increasing violence against journalists who are covering the internal protests. We have made clear to the Yemeni Government that this is unacceptable.

Bahrain

The Bahraini constitution guarantees freedom of the press. However, there is an element of self-censorship in independent media and internet censorship does occur. On 14 February 2011 the Bahraini Government pledged to enter into discussions with media organisations to expand the media freedoms in Bahrain. We have seen no changes to freedom of the media in Bahrain during the course of the recent unrest during which Bahrain continued to host a wide range of international and local journalists.

Morocco

We assess that it is safe for journalists to operate in Morocco.

Morocco recently introduced a press code to professionalise the operations of the media. We are not aware of any incidences of violence against journalists working in Morocco but there are some clear red lines; criticism of the King, Islam and questioning the territorial integrity of Western Sahara is not permitted.

Iran

In Iran, freedom of the media is tightly restricted by the Government and therefore the movements and activities of journalists are closely controlled and some foreign news agencies are denied entry into the country. The BBC is one such agency which has, together with other reputable international broadcasters, experienced a campaign of jamming by Iran of its Persian television service when seeking to broadcast news and current affairs programmes to the Iranian people.

Foreign journalists seeking to cover events in Iran have been subject to arrest on serious criminal charges, including espionage.

Algeria

We are not aware of any recent violence against journalists in Algeria. The print media enjoys relative freedom, with commentators and journalists able to openly criticise the Algerian Government including criticism of the President. The Algerian Government have recently committed to lift limitations on the broadcast media. While Algerian journalists are generally able to operate without undue restrictions, access to Algeria by foreign journalists is not straightforward.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the UN Secretary-General on the human rights of people in Sri Lanka. [43013]

Alistair Burt: Neither I nor the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), have recently discussed Sri Lanka with the UN Secretary-General, but we maintain close contact with UN agencies on the ground. During my recent visit to Sri Lanka, I met with these agencies in Colombo and Jaffna to hear their assessment of the current situation.

We continue to have concerns about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. We made clear in 2010 that we welcomed the establishment of the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts in June. The panel's work continues and we await its findings.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Medals

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the review of the rules governing the awarding of medals to armed forces personnel. [43434]

Mr Robathan: The Government have honoured the pledge to undertake a review of the rules governing the awarding of medals. The review recently reported its findings to Defence Ministers. The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minster will now evaluate these proposals before any final conclusions are reached.

Departmental Information Officers

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 383-4W, on departmental information officers, what the estimated cost to his Department was of the employment of press and communications officers in 2009-10. [43411]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* Communicators are employed across Defence and the armed forces. They have an important task in explaining to the public, the media, our own people and other audiences—at the local regional, national and international levels—the role of Defence, Defence activities, capabilities and operations. The main effort for Defence communicators at present is explaining our mission in Afghanistan. They comprise military and civilian personnel deployed to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Head Office. The majority are located in the service commands and units outside London including people working on service recruitment. The total cost of Defence communicators—covering all the various communications functions—identified during a cross Government Cabinet Office led exercise in financial year 2009-10 was £32.5 million. Further reductions have been made during the last financial year and we expect to see further cost savings as part of the civilian reductions being made at the MOD.

Hawk Aircraft

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual operating cost of the *(a)* Hawk T1 and *(b)* Hawk T1A aircraft was in the latest period for which figures are available. [43465]

Peter Luff: Information is not held in the format requested. The Ministry of Defence calculates the operating cost of aircraft per flying hour based on historical data.

The current average costs per flying hour, for financial year 2010-11, are provided in the following table. The figures include forward and depth servicing, fuel, crew and training costs and the cost of capital charge, depreciation and amortisation.

Hawk T1/T1A	*Estimated cost per hour (figures rounded) (£)*
Hawk (RAF Training on 100 Squadron, 19 (Reserve) and 208 (Reserve) Squadrons)	10,000
Hawk (Royal Navy)	7,000
Hawk (Royal Air Force Aerobatics Team)	6,000

The operating cost for RAF Hawk training aircraft on 100, 19 (Reserve) and 208 (Reserve) Squadrons includes elements for simulators and other training infrastructure.

HMS Cumberland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the decommissioning of HMS Cumberland over the comprehensive spending review period; [43944]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely weekly cost to the public purse of maintaining HMS Cumberland once it is decommissioned; [43945]

(3) what estimate he has made of the operational costs of HMS Cumberland for 2010-11. [43946]

Peter Luff: In order to deal with the deficit in the defence budget and contribute to wider deficit reduction, a decision was taken as part of the strategic defence and security review to withdraw from service the remaining four Type 22 Frigates, including HMS Cumberland. The savings arising from this decision will include overheads and other costs relating to the operation of a class of ship. Therefore, the precise savings arising from the withdrawal of an individual ship are not separately identifiable. The total savings from withdrawing all four ships are estimated at some £240 million across the comprehensive spending review period.

It is not possible at this stage to state the costs of maintaining HMS Cumberland following her decommissioning as work is ongoing to identify the optimum disposal route.

The projected operating cost for HMS Cumberland in financial year 2010-11, based on actual costs to February 2011 and those estimated for the remainder of the financial year is £16 million.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Commando helicopter force; and if he will make a statement. [42764]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review confirmed the continuing requirement for the Commando helicopter force, based at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, particularly in relation to the helicopter lift requirements for littoral manoeuvre.

It remains our intention to transfer the Merlin Mk 3/3a helicopters to the Commando helicopter force to replace the Sea King Mk 4 helicopters which go out of service by 2016 on current plans. The force's fleet of Lynx helicopters will be replaced by Wildcat attack helicopters.

Type 26 Frigates

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects the Type 26 frigates to be brought into service. [43947]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 202W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homes and Communities Agency

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an equality impact assessment was undertaken in respect of the new investment framework for the Homes and Communities Agency. [43789]

Grant Shapps: The Department will shortly be publishing an equality impact assessment for affordable rent, the principle element within the Affordable Homes Programme Framework published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency on 14 February 2011.

Council Tax

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 10 local authorities collected the lowest proportion of council tax due in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the estimated monetary value of the uncollected tax was in each case. [43844]

Robert Neill: A list of the 10 local authorities in England that collected the lowest proportion of council tax due in 2009-10, which is the latest period for which data are available, along with details of the estimated monetary value of the uncollected tax is shown in the following table.

	Estimated net collectable debit in respect of 2009-10 council tax (£000)	*Total receipts of 2009-10 council tax in 2009-10 (£000)*	*Receipts of 2009-10 council tax by 31 March 2010 as a percentage of net collectable debit*	*Amount of 2009-10 council tax not collected by 31 March 2010 (£000)*
Manchester	121,633	110,509	90.9	11,124
Salford	80,582	73,709	91.5	6,873
Lewisham	95,342	87,524	91.8	7,818
Southwark	94,027	86,325	91.8	7,702
Newham	64,939	59,748	92.0	5,191
Haringey	96,374	89,247	92.6	7,127
Hackney	68,370	63,466	92.8	4,904
Stoke-on-Trent	75,178	69,838	92.9	5,340
Barking and Dagenham	50,666	47,085	92.9	3,581
Bradford	150,253	140,561	93.6	9,692

This information is available in Table 5 of the Statistical Release 'Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2009-10' that is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates/

The in-year collection rate is the amount received by 31 March in respect of that financial year's council tax shown as a percentage of the net collectable debit in respect of that year's council tax, i.e. the income authorities would collect if everyone liable had paid. The figures exclude council tax benefit as this is paid directly to the local authority by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Collection of council taxes continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the final collection rate achieved is somewhere between the figures shown here and 100%.

Woodlands: Biodiversity

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on the inclusion of requirements relating to biodiversity for wildlife in woodland and forests in his Department's review of planning guidance; [43063]

(2) what his policy is on specifying in planning guidance his Department's issues to local authorities the degree of protection for ancient woodland. [43691]

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to retain the protection from development for ancient woods and trees contained in Planning Policy Statement 9 in the single National Planning Policy Framework; and if he will make a statement. [43352]

Robert Neill: Protection for ancient woodland in the existing guidance will be carried over to the National Planning Policy Framework for England. We will look at the inclusion of requirements relating to biodiversity for wildlife in woodland and forests as part of the process for preparing the National Planning Policy Framework.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of closing the Government Offices of the Regions; and what proportion of such costs arise from *(a)* redundancy, *(b)* premises and *(c)* other costs. [42036]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The closure of the Government offices on 31 March is part of the Government's policy of decentralisation and localism and will free local authorities and other public services from unnecessary bureaucracy. Closure will also make a contribution to reducing the public sector deficit while protecting front line services.

The cost of running the Government office network in the financial year 2010-11 is expected to be just under £100 million. As a result of closure, this annual cost will be saved. The estimated cost of the closure of the Government offices (spread across 2010-11 and 2011-12) is £59.1 million, well under the annual cost. This cost of closure is made up of:

(a) £53.6 million for redundancy and associated staff release costs;

(b) £1.1 million for premises costs; and

(c) £4.4 million for other costs (for the write off or impairment of existing assets).

Homelessness: Young People

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged 16 and 17 years were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by local authorities in England in each quarter since Q1 of 2009. [43709]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected in respect of households rather than people. The number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty, is not collected by specific ages, but since June 2006 data have been provided by the age band into which the applicant falls. These age bands include 16 to 24-year-olds, 25 to 44-year-olds, 45 to 59-year-olds, 60 to 64-year-olds, 65 to 74-year-olds, and 75-year-olds and over. Data are provided in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

The latest release was published on 9 December 2010 and contains data from June 2006 up to September 2010. Table 11 of the release contains details of acceptances by age band in each quarter since 2006:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1791620.xls

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities his Department has consulted on the ring-fencing of housing revenue accounts receipts following the introduction of self-financing; and how many of those local authorities consulted supported the ring-fencing of such receipts; [42816]

(2) what proportion of receipts from council house sales local authorities will be able to retain from 2015 onwards. [42817]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 111-12W.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Housing Revenue Account is treated as a landlord account; and whether rents paid by tenants may be used other than for the benefit of tenants. [42818]

Andrew Stunell: The housing revenue account is a ring-fenced landlord account operated by all councils in England with 50 or more council homes. The main source of income in the housing revenue account is from rents and service charges. Transfers across the ring-fence are not routinely allowed.

All expenditure within the housing revenue account must be accounted for under items 1-10 listed under part II, schedule IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended.

Fuller details of the operation of the housing revenue account can be found in the housing revenue account manual, which can be found on my Department's website

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hramanual0607

Housing: Construction

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 100WH, what progress the Planning Inspectorate has made in developing a model condition to facilitate adoption of residential roads in new housing developments. [43912]

Robert Neill: The Planning Inspectorate is currently discussing with the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government a model condition which local planning authorities can use where they need to require that any residential roads proposed as part of a housing development are built to adoptable standards. It is intended that the model condition should be published by the Planning Inspectorate once it has been agreed.

Roads cannot be adopted by using a planning condition—adoption has to be done by agreement with the highway authority but the local planning authority can resolve to grant permission subject to completion of an estate road planning agreement. If the proposed development includes improvement works to existing roads and these will be adopted, the developer should be required to enter into an agreement under section 278 of the Highways Act.

Leisure Facilities: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans his Department has to monitor the levels of funding by local authorities for sports and leisure facilities; [42187]

(2) what guidance he has provided to local authorities on the effects on local sports and leisure facilities of the reduction in his Department's funding to fund such authorities. [42188]

Robert Neill: The Department provides unhypothecated formula grant to local authorities, which they use to meet locally identified priorities. This means there is no specific funding from the Department for sports and leisure facilities.

We have no plans to issue guidance to local authorities on how they should spend their formula grant allocations. Councils are most effective when they have freedom to innovate and respond to what local people want, and this Government are committed to reducing the burdens on local authorities.

The Department does collect revenue expenditure data from all local authorities in England, including information on recreation and sports services—available at

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/

These data can be used to see how much local authorities are spending on their sports and leisure facilities.

Transparency should underpin everything that councils do. All council business should be open to public scrutiny—whether it is expenditure, senior pay, council expenses or voluntary sector funding. The Government are consulting on a code of recommended practice to enshrine the principles of data transparency and to set out the minimum data that should be published.

Local Government: Pay

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issued to local authorities on the work of remuneration committees in local authorities in determining pay packages for authority employees prior to May 2010. [43845]

Robert Neill: No departmental guidance was issued to local authorities on the work of remuneration committees in determining pay packages for local authority employees prior to May 2010. Provisions in the Localism Bill will ensure that future decisions of elected members, in full council, will now be transparent and demonstrate a greater degree of local democratic accountability in such matters.

Public Expenditure

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have not yet published online details of expenditure of sums over £500. [43855]

Robert Neill: All local authorities in England, except Nottingham city council, have published details of their £500 spend online. It is disappointing that the council leadership are refusing to be open about their spending; such information would help the council cut waste and inefficiency and so help protect frontline services. We want transparency to underpin everything councils do. All council business should be open to public scrutiny whether it is expenditure, senior pay, councillor expenses or voluntary sector funding. We are currently consulting on a Code of Recommended Practice to enshrine the principles of data transparency and set out the minimum data that should be published.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse of employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme for local authority staff, including staff with pension arrangements covered under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, was in the latest year for which figures are available. [43937]

Robert Neill: In 2009-10, the latest year for which information is available, local authority employers in England contributed £5.8 billion to the Local Government Pension Scheme. This includes the cost for staff who are the subject of a transfer to which the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations apply.

This information is available in Table 2 of the Statistical Release 'Local Government Pension Scheme funds England 2009-10' that is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/pensionscheme/

Home Ownership

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered the merits of extending the *(a)* Right to Buy and *(b)* Right to Acquire home ownership scheme to cover properties categorised as sheltered accommodation. [43179]

Grant Shapps: There are no plans to review the provisions which exclude certain types of property from the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire scheme. This is to ensure that social landlords are able to retain a stock of housing that is suitable for occupation by vulnerable people, in particular those who are elderly or disabled, or those who need a particular level of support.

Sewers

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reporting requirements in relation to unadopted sewers there are for local authority searches. [43735]

Robert Neill: There are no reporting requirements for local authority searches in relation to unadopted sewers.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his estimate is of the number of socially-rented properties of each number of bedrooms to be allocated by local authorities and registered social landlords to meet demand arising from social tenants of working age moving to properties warranted by their household size; [43838]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of socially-rented properties of each number of bedrooms in each region to be allocated by local authorities and registered social landlords to meet demand arising from social tenants of working age moving to properties warranted by their household size. [43839]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not available. This Department has allocated £13 million over the next four years to help local authorities support under-occupying social tenants who wish to move.

Third Sector

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the list of payments to charities and voluntary groups published in his Department's resource accounts for 2009-10, if he will publish a similar list of payments for 2010-11 to date, based on the unaudited records held by his Department. [43853]

Robert Neill: The Department's resource accounts will include a list of the payments made under section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 for the 2010-11 financial year in order to fulfil the reporting requirements included within the legislation.

JUSTICE

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what resources he plans to allocate to alternative dispute resolution and mediation over the comprehensive spending review period. [43563]

Mr Djanogly: Government are committed to encouraging the public to resolve their issues out of court without recourse to public funds, using simpler, more informal remedies where they are appropriate.

On 23 February I announced that we will be increasing awareness and understanding of family mediation through a new pre-application protocol for family mediation information and assessment meetings. This will harmonise the position between self-funding and publicly funded individuals.

In our recent legal aid consultation paper we proposed that most family private law proceedings—other than cases where domestic violence or forced marriage is involved and child abduction cases—be removed from the scope of legal aid. Crucially, however, as we believe that supporting families at their most difficult moments is vitally important, it is proposed that free mediation for the types of dispute that previously were in scope will continue to those who are eligible. This will mean that those vulnerable people who need support will be able to benefit from mediation.

In 2009-10, we spent £14.4 million on publicly funded family mediations. With the proposed legal aid reforms, it is anticipated that, subject to increased demand for publicly funded mediations, an additional £5 million will be spent annually.

We are considering how increased use of alternative dispute resolution could be further encouraged across the civil, family and administrative justice system.

Belmarsh Prison

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps have been taken at HM Prison Belmarsh to ensure the prison complies with requirements under the Equality Act 2010 following the settlement of the disability discrimination claim of Abdullah Baybasin. [43364]

Mr Blunt: Following the settlement of the claim a full review of the living accommodation at Belmarsh has been undertaken, taking account of the location and the need of those with disabilities. Conversion of two cells into one, to ensure their compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, is due to commence shortly in three areas of the prison, and is expected to be completed within 12 weeks of commencement.

Citizens Advice Bureaux: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will assess the likely effects on citizens advice bureaux in North Wales of the planned reduction in the legal aid budget; [43154]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the provision of face-to-face legal advice through the Welsh language in Wales of his proposals for legal aid reform. [43155]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are mindful of their responsibilities in relation to Wales and the Welsh language. Impact assessments will be published alongside the Government response to the legal aid consultation later this year.

Courts: Costs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of proposed weekend court openings in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [43361]

Mr Djanogly: The number of magistrates courts that open on a Saturday are determined by ongoing discussion between local magistrates courts, Justices' Issues Groups and the relevant criminal justice agencies. The number of courts that open and the length of actual sittings may vary significantly depending on the number and nature of cases that are brought top court. HMCS is committed to ensuring that any weekend court openings are efficient and effective, and keeps the level of such sittings under close local scrutiny.

No estimate has been made of the cost of weekend court openings from 2011-15. The current cost of weekend court openings is not held centrally. To provide the information requested would require a manual retrieval of information/data from each court, to obtain which would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43207]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer to him on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 402W.

Deposit Protection Service Regulations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful cases were brought against landlords by tenants for *(a)* breach of Deposit Protection Service regulations and *(b)* not paying deposits into the deposit protection scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [43143]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold any statistical information about county court claims or orders relating specifically to a breach of Deposit Protection Service regulations or non payment of deposits into the deposit protection scheme.

While the administrative computer system used in the county courts of England and Wales contains the incidence of claims issued and orders made in such cases, the information held does not enable these cases to be separately identified. The requested information could only be obtained through the examination of individual case files held at courts which would incur disproportionate cost.

Divorce

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will discuss with the Minister for Women and Equalities the potential effects on the ability of people in abusive relationships to *(a)* complete divorce proceedings, *(b)* separate finances following divorce, *(c)* resolve property matters following relationship breakdown and *(d)* enable safe child contact of his proposed changes to eligibility for legal aid. [43432]

Mr Djanogly: The Government's consultation on its proposals for the reform of legal aid closed on 14 February. The proposals were cleared through the Home Affairs Committee in the usual way. The Ministry of Justice is currently considering responses to the consultation, and will hold discussions with interested parties across Government before publishing a response.

Employment Tribunals

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse of a case heard at an employment and support allowance appeal tribunal was in the latest period for which figures are available. [43522]

Mr Djanogly: The average cost of processing a social security appeal is £282.

This figure is calculated by dividing the total expenditure (including overheads) in 2009-10 by the total number of cases disposed of in that year. Benefit-specific calculations are not provided because of the high degree of apportionment of costs which would be required.

Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43315]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) (which includes the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)) supports the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in introducing Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food. This is intended to encourage the public sector to procure food in a manner that promotes sustainable development and does not discriminate against local and UK suppliers.

The MoJ and its contractors continue to look for opportunities to enable domestic producers to compete for supply contracts while seeking to achieve value for money for the taxpayer and for those using the services provided.

All products supplied to the MoJ must comply with all current and subsequent relevant UK and EU legislation, regulations and directives. The suppliers are required to provide products that are sourced in compliance with EC Regulations and from assured providers under animal welfare conditions that are compatible with the UK animal welfare regulations.

The MoJ is committed to ensuring that food procured meets British standards of production or their equivalent, wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

Home Detention Curfews

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for early release under the home detention curfew scheme have been made in each of the last five years; how many such applications were approved; how many applications were made under exceptional circumstances; and how many of the applications made under exceptional circumstances were approved in each such year. [42923]

Mr Blunt: The number of applications for early release on home detention curfew (HDC) is not collated centrally. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the total number of applications made in the last five years.

However, using the data that are held centrally, the following table shows the number of prisoners released on HDC during the period between 2005 and 2009:

	Number
2005	17,296
2006	13,666
2007	11,428
2008	11,721
2009	11,534

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. They are published within Chapter 9 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009" available from the Library of the House and also available free at the following website address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The Department does not collate data on the number of applications citing exceptional circumstances but governors are asked to send details of presumed unsuitable releases, together with reasons why release was granted, to the departmental policy team. During the period between 2005 and 2009 the team received notifications in relation to 70 offenders who were granted early release on home detention curfew, having shown that there were exceptional circumstances in their cases.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners convicted of each category of offence and who were released early under the home detention curfew scheme due to exceptional circumstances would not otherwise have been eligible for the scheme in each of the last five years. [42924]

Mr Blunt: Only prisoners who are eligible statutorily for release under the home detention curfew (HDC) scheme, and who passed the risk assessment, may be released under it. The requirement to show exceptional circumstances is a separate test for those who are presumed unsuitable for release by length of sentence or nature of offending. We do not hold data on the number of prisoners who satisfy the exceptional circumstances test but fail the risk assessment.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on access to legal advice in rural and remote areas of his proposals for legal aid reform; [43152]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on law firms specialising in family law of the planned reduction in the legal aid budget. [43153]

Mr Djanogly: The potential impacts of the reform proposals are detailed in the impact assessments that accompanied the publication of the consultation paper. These will be updated and published alongside the response to consultation.

Legal Services Commission

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what functions previously undertaken by the Legal Services Commission are *(a)* being undertaken or *(b)* in the process of being undertaken by his Department as a consequence of the recommendations of the Magee Review on the delivery of legal aid. [43389]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) runs legal aid services in England and Wales in support of ministerial and departmental strategic and policy aims. It continues to undertake all activities necessary to manage the delivery of legal aid services. The Magee review made a number of recommendations to strengthen and improve the legal aid system. My Department has worked with the LSC to enable improvements to be made to existing processes, particularly in terms of governance and financial management and control. A revised framework document has been published, detailing roles and responsibilities and relationships between the two bodies. The Magee report also presented options for further investigation, including the restructuring of the LSC to an Executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The Government have stated their intention to abolish the LSC as a non-departmental public body and replace it with an Executive agency of the MoJ. Legislation to return statutory responsibilities, functions and powers to the Lord Chancellor will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Licence: Prosecutions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in West Yorkshire police force area were prosecuted for offences related to not having a television licence in each year since 2005. [43388]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003, in the West Yorkshire police force area from 2005 to 2009 (latest available) is given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring, 2011.

Please note that the reply given to PQ 16068, 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 153, overstated by 80 the number of persons proceeded against for television licence evasion in the West Yorkshire police force area for 2008. This will be noted in *Hansard* and a link provided to the correct figure of 6,572.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion[1, 2]*, West Yorkshire police force area, 2005 to 2009*[3, 4]

	Number
2005	5,333
2006	5,293
2007	5,928
2008	6,572
2009	7,621

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion[1, 2]*, West Yorkshire police force area, 2005 to 2009*[3, 4]

[1] For 2005 to 2007 as well as Television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.

[2] For 2008 to 2009 these figures relate to the offence Television Licence evasion—Communications Act 2003.

[3] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the National Offender Management Service staff diversity review for 2009-10 will be published; and what the reason is for the time taken before publication. [43096]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service staff diversity review for 2009-10 will be published on 10 March 2011. Publication was initially delayed due to the need to divert resources to help support work on the spending review. It will now be published at the same time as the National Offender Management Service equalities annual report.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress he has made on implementing his proposals for a competition strategy for all offender management services. [43564]

Mr Blunt: As set out in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", we will publish a comprehensive competition programme for offender management services later this year.

Prison Service: Uniforms

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on uniforms for prison officers working in young offender institutions for persons aged between 15 and 17 in each year since 2006. [43222]

Mr Blunt: The following table details the amount spent on staff uniforms, clothing and personal protective equipment for all prison staff working in the young offender establishments listed. It is not possible to separately identify expenditure on staff uniforms for prison officers only. To do so would require each establishment to separately examine a high volume of local records and thus would incur disproportionate cost.

YOIs	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	£ *2010-11*
Cookham Wood	21,710	31,552	32,525	34,766	18,870
Hindley	51,533	63,512	65,830	35,632	47,094
Warren Hill	23,064	43,553	19,168	18,332	13,579
Werrington	13,470	15,275	15,544	11,569	11,469
Wetherby	39,766	41,020	50,398	53,101	22,462
Stoke Heath[1]	10,217	10,789	12,237	6,153	5,940
Feltham[1]	8,960	28,768	19,604	13,480	15,183
Downview[1]	1,012	1,115	1,211	822	523
Eastwood Park[1]	812	1,115	1,503	911	797
New Hall[1]	3,729	2,132	2,391	2,100	1,775
Total	174,273	238,831	220,411	176,866	137,692

[1] Denotes a split site.

The figures have been obtained from the National Offender Management Service's accounting system. With the exception of current year forecasts, the figures have been audited by the National Audit Office. The figures for split sites have been calculated on the basis of the number of beds currently designated to persons aged 15 to 17.

The table does not include sites that have been decommissioned since 2006.

Prisoners

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many projects in prisons there are in which prisoners receive remuneration from a private company for the work undertaken. [43221]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners undertaking work while in prison are not employed by the private company involved. This enables the governor/director to rightly retain primacy on prison control and prisoner management issues. Prisoner remuneration is the responsibility of the prison[1] and should as far as possible help them see the link between legitimate hard work and reward, and to enable them to make reparation to society and to victims of crime in particular.

There are a number of private companies that support work and training in prisons and the Government are currently consulting on how best to work with the private and voluntary sectors to provide further work and training opportunities for prisoners, including an increased number of employer led workshops in prisons.

[1] For prisons managed by the private sector it is the responsibility of the operating contractor to remunerate prisoners for the work they do.

Prisoners: Gender Recognition

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 281W, on prisoners: gender recognition, whether the final draft of the proposed Prison Service Instruction is complete; what the reason is for the time taken to submit it for Ministerial approval; and by what date he expects it to be *(a)* approved and *(b)* published. [43484]

Mr Blunt: Prison Service Instruction 07/2011 on the care and management of transsexual prisoners was issued by the National Offender Management Service on 2 March 2011.

Publication was preceded by a consultation with internal and external stakeholders and the taking of legal advice. Officials within the National Offender Management Service considered all the responses and advice before the Prison Service Instruction was issued.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with which countries the UK has a treaty for the repatriation of foreign national prisoners; [42702]

(2) with which countries he expects the UK to sign treaties on the repatriation of foreign national prisoners in the next three years; [42703]

(3) how many foreign nationals of each country of origin serving custodial sentences in England and Wales have been repatriated to their home country in the last six months. [42956]

Mr Blunt: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr Offord) on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, 410W, where the Government's policy on the negotiation of prisoner transfer agreements was set out. Negotiations with Nigeria, Jamaica, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are at various stages of completion. Negotiations with other countries will be considered on a case by case basis in line with the announced policy.

The countries and territories with which the United Kingdom has prisoner transfer agreements are shown in the following lists 1 and 2. Table 1 gives the number of prisoners repatriated from England and Wales in each of the six months to 31 January 2011.

List 1: Countries which have prisoner transfer agreements with the UK

Albania
America
Andorra
Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Barbados

Belgium
Bermuda
Bolivia
Bosnia Herzegovina
Brazil
British Virgin Island
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Laos
Latvia
Lesotho
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malawi
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova
Montenegro
Morocco
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Samoa
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sri Lanka
St Lucia
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Ukraine
Venezuela
Vietnam
Vietnam

List 2: Territories which have prisoner transfer agreements with the UK

Aruba
Bouvet Island
British Indian O.T.
Cayman Islands
Dutch Antilles
Falkland Islands
Faroe Islands
Gibraltar
Henderson, Ducie and Oeno
Montserrat
Peter I Island
Pitcairn
Queen Maud Land
St Helena and Dependencies
Sovereign Base Areas of Akratri and Dhekelia (Cyprus)

Table 1: Number of foreign national prisoners transferred from England and Wales August 2010 to January 2011.

Country	*Number of prisoners transferred*
Belgium	2
Bermuda	1
Canada	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	1
Netherlands	10
Pakistan	4
Portugal	1
Slovenia	1
Turkey	2

Working Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress he has made on implementing his plans for working prisons. [43562]

Mr Blunt: We set out our intention to make prisons places of work and industry in the Green Paper, "Breaking the cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", published on 7 December 2010. The consultation period ends on 4 March 2011, and the Ministry of Justice's response will be published in May 2011.

Prisons: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates were held in HMP Birmingham in each of the last six months. [43114]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the prison population at HMP Birmingham on the last day of each month from July to December 2010.

	Number of prisoners
31 July 2010	1,428
31 August 2010	1,463
30 September 2010	1,450
31 October 2010	1,443
30 November 2010	1,442
31 December 2010	1,420

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Closures

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what criteria are being used to determine which prison establishments will be closed; and what the decision-making process is; [43092]

(2) whether he has compiled a provisional list of prison establishments which are under consideration for closure; [43093]

(3) what the required notice period is for termination of the lease at HM Prison Lancaster Castle; [43094]

(4) what cost-benefit analysis has been carried out in respect of the proposed closure of HM Prisons Lancaster Castle and Ashwell. [43095]

Mr Blunt: Decisions on the future size of the prison estate will be driven by prison population demand. Prisons will only close when capacity allows. We will ensure that there are enough places for those offenders sentenced to custody by the courts, including a margin to manage fluctuations in the prison population. Decisions to reduce or make changes to prison capacity will only be taken if they do not put this ability at risk.

The prison population is under review following the announcements made earlier in the year about Lancaster Castle, Ashwell and Morton Hall prisons. No decisions have been taken about the need for further reductions in capacity. However any proposals for future closures will be based on the following primary factors:

an economic assessment which identifies prisons that are inefficient to operate or maintain; and

an operational assessment to consider whether the closures of prisons can be managed while continuing to maintain the safe and decent operation of the prison estate and to meet the needs of offenders.

The prison estate as a whole is kept under review and is subject to consideration through the assessment process described above.

Individual business cases were completed for each site which considered the cost of closure and the benefits that would be accrued.

Lancaster Castle will close as a prison by the end of March 2011. There is a three year notice period in the lease and the site will be returned to the Duchy of Lancaster in due course.

Probation Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision probation trusts in England and Wales make to issue staff with personal alarms. [43617]

Mr Blunt: Appropriate provision of personal assistance alarms to staff is the responsibility of the individual probation trusts. National health and safety guidance to the probation service prescribes that personal alarms are to be available where there is a risk of assault and violence in the workplace.

Squatting

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation governing the removal of squatters from homes. [43664]

Mr Blunt: We are looking at the options for strengthening the law in relation to squatting in residential and non-residential properties and the way in which it is enforced, but we are yet to reach any firm conclusions.

Victim Surcharge

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the amounts to be committed from the Victim Surcharge to each recipient in 2010-11. [43362]

Mr Blunt: Proceeds from the Surcharge are ring-fenced to fund non-financial support services for victims and witnesses. Funds derived from the Surcharge will contribute to the following for 2010-11:

£0.84 million to fund Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Services

£2.6 million to the Crown Prosecution Service as a contribution to the cost of providing Witness Care Units

£7 million to the Victim Support National Centre to fund enhanced services to victims and witnesses

Additionally, £1.75 million has been allocated to the Victims Fund, which contributes to the funding of organisations who support victims of sexual violence, hate crime and homicide.

The total budget for services provided above is £12.19 million. It is estimated that the Victim Surcharge contribution will be approximately £10.4 million in 2010-11.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the amount to be raised from the Victim Surcharge in 2010-11. [43363]

Mr Blunt: It is estimated that approximately £10.4 million will be raised from the Victim Surcharge in 2010-11.

This is based on recorded receipts from 1 April 2010 to 31 January 2011, extrapolated to the end of March 2011.

Violence: Probation Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* instances of and *(b)* threats of violence were recorded in (i) unpaid work placements, (ii) probation offices and (iii) approved premises in each probation trust in 2009-10. [43615]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Instances and threats of violence against probation staff in (i) unpaid work placements, (ii) probation offices and (iii) approved premises in each probation area, 2009-10

	Unpaid Work Placements					Probation Offices				
Area	*Threat with intent to kill*	*Threatened with an offensive weapon*	*Physically assaulted*	*Intimidation*	*Total*	*Threat with intent to kill*	*Threatened with an offensive weapon*	*Physically assaulted*	*Intimidation*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	2
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Cheshire	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	0
Cumbria	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0
Derbyshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	0
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	1
Dorset	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	1	1
Durham	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	0
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Essex	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Gwent	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Hampshire	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	11	13
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	2	2
Humberside	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	3	—	3
Kent	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Leicestershire	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3	6
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
London	—	1	1	38	40	—	—	4	45	49
Greater Manchester	4	—	3	60	67	—		2	10	12
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	0	—	2	—	—	2
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Northumbria	—	2	—	6	8	4	—	—	9	13
North Wales	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	4	4
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	1	1
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	3	3
South Wales	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	4	4
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	6	6
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	1	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Surrey	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	5	5
Sussex[1]	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Teesside	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
Thames Valley	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0
Warwickshire	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	3	—	3
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	0
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	1	1
Total	6	4	7	121	138	5	2	20	108	135

	Approved Premises				
Area	*Threat with intent to kill*	*Threatened with an offensive weapon*	*Physically assaulted*	*Intimidation*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	0
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	4	4
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	0
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	0
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	0
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	0
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	0
Dorset	—	—	—	4	4
Durham	—	—	—	—	0
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	—	—	0
Essex	—	—	—	—	0
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	0
Gwent	—	—	—	—	0
Hampshire	—	—	2	6	8
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	0
Humberside	—	—	—	1	1
Kent	—	—	—	—	0
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	0
Leicestershire	—	—	1	8	9
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	0
London	—	—	—	2	2
Greater Manchester	1	—	1	5	7
Merseyside	—	1	—	—	1
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	0
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	0
Northumbria	1	—	3	1	5
North Wales	—	—	—	—	0
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	0
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	0
South Wales	—	—	—	—	0
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	0
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	0
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	0
Surrey	—	—	—	—	0
Sussex[1]	—	—	—	—	0
Teesside	—	—	2	—	2
Thames Valley	1	—	—	—	1
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	0
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	0
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	0
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	0
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	0
Total	3	1	9	31	44

[1] Sussex Probation Area was unable to submit health and safety data during 2009-10, owing to local difficulties. Figures for the Trust are therefore not included within the totals provided.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what strategy his Department has developed to deal with threats of violence at work in the probation service in England and Wales. [43616]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service has issued national guidance to the probation service on health and safety matters. This includes specific guidance on violence in the workplace, as well as on lone working and risk assessment. Probation areas are required to have in place arrangements to ensure that all employees (including contractors' employees and agency staff) who come into any contact with offenders are suitably informed and trained (in proportion to the degree of contact) in handling situations of potential or actual violence.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43243]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has policies that allow employees to take time off, within specified limits, to fulfil specific volunteering roles such as magisterial duties and school governors, and general volunteering. MoJ is also committed to supporting the civil service volunteering initiative announced by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Maude), on 17 February 2011.

The Ministry of Justice has systems in place that allow all employees to donate via payroll giving, e.g. through 'Give As You Earn Scheme' or by employees making arrangements for voluntary deductions from pay.

Young Offenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Communities and Local Government and *(b)* Education on the resettlement of young offenders. [43903]

Mr Blunt: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Education, Home Office, and Department of Health on all aspects of youth crime and youth justice.

Ministry of Justice officials also work closely with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the implications of the localism agenda for locally devolved Youth Offending Teams.

We recognise that young people leaving custody are some of the most vulnerable young people in our society and that their effective resettlement is critical to breaking the cycle of offending. Young offenders have complex and wide ranging problems which require intensive support and access to services which can directly address their offending behaviour.

The recent Green Paper proposals set out how we are considering introducing elements of payment by results into youth justice to incentivise local authorities to reduce youth offending, of which resettlement is a key part.

PRIME MINISTER

Arms: Control of Exports

Mr Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he proposes to take to put in place firmer controls on the export of arms from the UK to non-democratic states. [43870]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 28-46.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes in Afghanistan his Department is funding. [42879]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme in Afghanistan covers three key areas: improving security and political stability; stimulating the economy; and helping the Afghan Government deliver vital basic services. DFID programmes have helped the Afghan Revenue Department to increase tax revenue from $200 million in 2004 to almost $1.3 billion in 2009-10; helped finance the salaries of almost 320,000 public servants (teachers and health workers); and enabled over 22,000 Community Development Councils to create 50,000 locally-generated projects to improve water, roads, health and education.

Information on all the projects we fund in Afghanistan and elsewhere is published online at

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/Default.aspx?countrySelect=AF-Afghanistan

Africa: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assistance his Department plans to provide to smallholder farms in Africa in each of the next four financial years; [43420]

(2) what assistance his Department plans to provide through *(a)* microfinance and *(b)* vouchers to smallholder farms in Africa during the comprehensive spending review period. [43026]

Mr O'Brien: The Government recognise the important contribution that smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, can make to reducing food insecurity and poverty in Africa.

We are currently finalising our detailed plans for the next four years for each country programme including the different sectors they will support. These Country Operational Plans will be published later this spring and will detail spending in each sector including where we will be providing support for smallholder farming, microfinance and vouchers over the next four years.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided for smallholder farms in Africa since the L'Aquila summit in 2009. [43421]

Mr O'Brien: At the G8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy in 2009 the international community pledged $20 billion dollars in support of food security and agriculture. The UK agreed to contribute £1.1 (US$1.7) billion between 2009 and 2012. DFID has spent £408 (US$612) million for the financial year 2009-10. £98 million of this figure was spent on bilateral programmes In Africa.

Many of the beneficiaries of these programmes will be poor rural workers and smallholder farmers in Africa. For example, DFID is co-funding a programme on land tenure reform in Rwanda which will result in 8 million smallholder farmers receiving land titles, leading to increased sense of ownership and increased investment in productive capacity. It is not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of specific impacts on smallholder farmers as a group.

Cambodia: Non-governmental Organisations

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on the Cambodian Government's proposals to regulate non-governmental organisations and associations. [43029]

Mr Duncan: The British embassy in Phnom Penh and the Department for International Development's Cambodia Office (until its closure on 31 January 2011) have received regular representations from Cambodian and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the proposed law on NGOs and associations since it was announced as part of the Cambodian Government's legislative programme in 2008. Since the publication of the draft law in December 2010 the embassy has held numerous meetings with representatives of international and local NGOs, and received copies of their analysis and position papers on the draft law. The embassy has also received letters about the law from other interested organisations including Human Rights Watch, Global Witness and the Catholic international development network CIDSE.

We welcome the constructive consultation process that has so far been carried out by the Cambodian Ministry of Interior, which appears to have actively addressed many concerns raised by non-governmental organisations. Our ambassador, together with EU colleagues, met with the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 March and the Ministry of Interior on 3 March to raise our concerns and discuss next steps On both occasions we received assurances that the Cambodian Government will take full account of the various representations so far made in the consultation process, and will consult further on a revised draft.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42619]

Mr Duncan: The new principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication were disseminated to Departments at the end of December 2010. Departments were asked to raise awareness of these principles and disseminate them through their supply chain networks.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently conducting a review of procurement processes and practices. As part of the review, DFID will consider the most effective ways to raise awareness of these principles within the procurement process. The Public Services Forum will review the overall impact of this change in 2012.

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43469]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has two UK headquarters, located in London and East Kilbride. We are currently transferring 70 posts from our London office to East Kilbride where we have around 500 staff.

We do not have any plans at the moment to relocate either of our offices. Any future staff relocation is likely to be between our two existing UK sites.

Departmental Manpower

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many senior civil servants have left his Department's employ since May 2010; and what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* non-contractual payments have been made to such staff upon departure. [42293]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since May 2010 20 senior civil servants have left the employ of the Department for International Development (DFID). Non contractual payments were not made to any of these leavers. Fifteen of the leavers received contractual payments in line with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010. [42298]

Mr Duncan: The number of actual and full-time equivalent staff who have left employment in the Department for International Development (DFID) since May 2010, is shown in the following table.

	Actual	*Full-time equivalent*
UK home civil servants	145	138.1
Staff appointed in country (staff engaged locally overseas on local terms and conditions to support our development activities overseas)	99	99
Total	244	237.1

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42395]

Mr Duncan: The number of actual and full-time equivalent staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) in May 2010, is shown in the following table.

	Actual	*Full-time equivalent*
UK home civil servants	1,833	1,766.7
Staff appointed in country (staff engaged locally overseas on local terms and conditions to support our development activities overseas)	776	773.8
Total	2,609	2,540.5

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* name, *(b)* purpose, *(c)* staffing level and *(d)* estimated annual cost was of each new unit or team established in his Department since May 2010. [42725]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has created the following new departments since May 2010:

1. Private Sector Department (PSD): created in January 2011 as a direct result of the Strategic Reform Plan, PSD aims to raise the level, extent and effectiveness of DFID's engagement with the private sector. Although this is a new department, it is largely made up of pre-existing teams. It is estimated that when fully staffed, PSD will include around 24 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. Operating costs of PSD are expected to be set just over £1.7 million per annum.

2. Chief Professional Officer/Heads of Profession Unit: the fundamental aims of the new unit, established in January 2011, is to improve the provision of specialist advice to DFID's programmes. When fully staffed, the unit will comprise 19.5 FTE staff. Operating costs are expected to be just over £1.8 million per annum.

3. A joint DFID and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) office in Juba, Southern Sudan (led by DFID): opened in July 2010 to develop DFID's programmes in Southern Sudan. DFID does not publish the number of staff in overseas locations because this may represent a security risk, especially to those serving is hostile environments or fragile states. Operating costs when fully staffed are expected to be around £2.4 million per annum.

4. Corporate Hub: the purpose of the Hub is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Corporate Services Group. While this is a new unit, it was formed from existing corporate teams which have been streamlined and reduced in size. The Hub now includes 15 FTE staff. It has an annual operating budget of £0.5 million per annum.

Departmental Pay

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average salary is of members of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department. [42883]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The total salary of staff employed by the Department for International Development on fixed-term contracts, as at 31 January 2011, is £1.27 million, at a mean average salary of £48,839 per annum.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what regulations his Department introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42078]

Mr Duncan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development has not introduced any regulations since 18 November 2010 and is not responsible for any sets of regulations that are currently in force.

Departmental Travel

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on Ministerial travel since May 2010. [43028]

Mr Duncan: Details of overseas travel by Ministers between 31 May and 30 September 2010 are available on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) website. Details of overseas travel between 1 October and 30 December 2010 will be published on the website shortly. DFID is unable to provide details of ministerial travel in the UK without incurring disproportionate cost.

Disaster Relief

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the 10 largest public donations to national and international disaster relief organisations were for which the Government have provided match funding in the last 15 years. [42137]

Mr Duncan: The following table shows the 10 largest public contributions through the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (a grouping of 13 of the largest UK aid agencies) compared with Department for International Development (DFID) funding in response to the same disaster.

£

Top 10 emergencies based on public contributions to the Disasters Emergency Committee	*Disasters Emergency Committee: Total funds raised*	*Total DFID funding*
South Asia tsunami (2004)	390,000,000	124,500,000
Haiti earthquake (2010)	103,000,000	20,000,000
Pakistan floods (2010)	69,000,000	134,000,000
Pakistan earthquake (2005)	59,000,000	55,000,000
Kosovo crisis (1999)	53,000,000	81,500,000
Sudan emergency (2004)	35,000,000	64,500,000
Niger food crisis (2005)	33,000,000	6,570,000
Mozambique floods (2000)	30,000,000	22,000,000
India earthquake (2001)	24,000,000	8,200,000
Cyclone Nargis, Burma (2008)	20,000,000	45,000,000

Microfinance

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to microfinance organisations that are *(a)* sustainable and *(b)* not sustainable without donor funding in the last three years. [42700]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) rarely provides direct funding support to microfinance organisations. Our work on microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research. Programmes are often implemented by intermediaries, such as non-governmental organisations, central banks, Government agencies or in partnership with other donors. It is not therefore possible to identify specific microfinance institutions which may have benefitted from DFID's financial sector development programmes without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, improving the self-sufficiency of financial institutions is a key objective of financial sector development programmes. For example, DFID's Financial Inclusion Programme, implemented through the State Bank of Pakistan (SPB), aims to increase the sustainability of the financial sector through capacity building, product development and regulatory reform. FIP also supports the transformation of donor-dependent, unregulated microfinance institutions into regulated microfinance banks and provides guarantees to help them access commercial financing.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations in Bangladesh have received funding from his Department and its predecessor for microfinance initiatives between *(a)* 1990 and 2000 and *(b)* 2000 and 2010. [42701]

Mr O'Brien: Records prior to 1999 are not available. From 1999 onwards, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided support to the following microfinance organisations:

Palli Karma Sahayek Foundation (PKSF)

An apex organisation currently receiving funding from DFID through the PRIME programme to avert seasonal hunger. Previously, received funding to provide onward loans in a microfinance pilot under the Rural Electrification Development Project.

The Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)

Currently receiving funding from DFID to strengthen the regulation of microfinance institutions.

The Institute of Microfinance (InM)

Currently receiving DFID funding to carry out research and training on effective microfinance practices.

Concern Worldwide

Received funding for its programme Promoting Economic Development of the Poor through Community Based Microfinance Initiatives.

CARE

Supported by DFID in its CARE Income III project to increase the capacity of partner NGOs to support microenterprise and urban microfinance.

Proshika

A Bangladesh NGO that provides microfinance services was supported by DFID through a multi-donor funded programme.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided in the last three years to microfinance organisations that have undergone an Initial Public Offering (IPO) *(a)* before and *(b)* after the IPO. [42704]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) rarely provides direct funding support to microfinance organisations. Our work on microfinance is incorporated into broader financial sector development programmes, which have a range of interventions including policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, product innovation and research. Programmes are often implemented by intermediaries, such as non-governmental organisations, central banks, Government agencies or in partnership with other donors.

It is not therefore possible to identify specific microfinance organisations that may have benefited from DFID-supported financial sector development programmes without incurring disproportionate cost.

Overseas Aid

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether arrangements are in place to enable claw back or disallowance of aid-related funds that have not been spent appropriately. [42935]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has rigorous systems and procedures to ensure effective oversight of its funding and to ensure that UK aid achieves maximum value for money—reaching and delivering results for its intended recipients. This Government have a zero tolerance approach to fraud, corruption and other misuse. DFID takes the strongest action where any such abuse of taxpayers' funds is proven, including disciplinary, civil or criminal action as appropriate against those responsible. DFID works with partner organisations to ensure that similar standards are employed where UK funds are being managed externally.

Overseas Aid: Education

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is for the future funding of the Education for All Fast Track initiative. [42412]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to support the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI). The level of future UK funding for FTI will be agreed prior to the FTI replenishment event scheduled for the autumn, and will reflect the outcome of the multilateral aid review assessments, published on 1 March.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to *(a)* contribute to and *(b)* work with his international counterparts towards closing the gap of $16 billion of external financing annually for Education for All. [42742]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government are committed to supporting access to basic services in the developing world. Education is a critical part of this, particularly for girls. We will continue to work with others towards achievement of the education Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals.

The Government are working with international partners to improve education results, both through securing more resources for education and through more efficient use of existing resources. We are working with the Education for All Fast Track Initiative to support its reform process and a successful replenishment later this year. I have personally played an active leadership role in the '1 Goal' campaign, including travelling to South Africa for the 1 Goal World Cup summit last year. Our recently published reviews of UK aid commit us to supporting 11 million children in school overseas by 2014.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department had allocated to the Palestinian Negotiation Support Unit in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [43200]

Mr Duncan: In 2010-11 the Department for International Development (DFID) is providing support of up to £426,436 to the Negotiations Support Unit. £557,000 has been provisionally allocated for the financial year

2011-12. The exact figure will be determined by consultation currently under way between the donor group (UK, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark) and the Palestinian leadership about the nature and scale of technical assistance required by their negotiations team in the coming year.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the Palestinian Negotiation Support Unit in each year since 1999. [43201]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided assistance worth over £11 million to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD) and the Negotiations Support Unit (which is based in NAD) since 1999. The following table gives the amount per financial year.

Financial year	*Total (£)*
1999-2000	718,333
2000-01	663,675
2001-02	1,547,305
2002-03	1,048,444
2003-04	1,618.914
2004-05	1,419,698
2005-06	1,503,955
2006-07	881,417
2007-08	425,627
2008-09	670,010
2009-10	507.250
2010-11	426,436
Total	11,431.064

Payroll Deduction Scheme

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43242]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a formal policy to facilitate and encourage its employees to volunteer within their local community. Staff are entitled to up to five days' paid leave per annum to allow them to take part in volunteering or community activity.

DFID does not have a formal policy to encourage employees to donate to charities. The Department does, however, have a mechanism for staff to donate via payroll giving and this arrangement is publicised to all staff via the internal staff intranet.

Sudan: Oil

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his Sudanese counterpart on facilitating an agreement on oil revenue between north and south Sudan. [42916]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my visit to Khartoum and Juba in November 2010, I discussed the need to make urgent progress on outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues with both parties, including future arrangements for the division of oil revenues We support the work of Thabo Mbeki and the African Union High Level Panel on all post-referendum issues and I discussed the issue of oil revenue with President Mbeki and the Southern Sudan Minister for Regional Cooperation at the African Union Summit in January. The Norwegians have provided advice on the Sudanese oil sector for many years. We are working with the Norwegians to increase the Government of Southern Sudan's capacity to manage the energy sector.

UN Women

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he is providing to the UN Women agency; and if he will make a statement. [42437]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the creation of UN Women. Baroness Verma represented the UK at the official launch of UN Women on 24 February in New York, and had discussions with Michelle Bachelet, its executive director, beforehand to underline DFID's support. DFID's long-term funding commitments to UN Women will require a strategic plan that sets out a clear results framework outlining targets and expected impact. The strategic plan is due in June this year. In the meantime we have offered UN Women transitional funding and a secondment to allow them to set out the strongest possible plans for their work.

Yemen: Official Visits

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings were held during the Minister of State's visit to Yemen; and what the outcomes of those meetings were. [42169]

Mr Duncan: During our visit, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I met President Ali Abdullah Saleh. We delivered three messages to him. First, on the need for his Government to make progress on the national dialogue with the opposition parties, in order to allow free and fair parliamentary elections to be held this year. Second, on the need for the Government of Yemen to produce a prioritised and budgeted Development Plan for Poverty Reduction, in order to increase the effectiveness of Yemeni and donor efforts to tackle poverty and deprivation. Finally, we requested intensified Yemeni efforts against Al Qaeda.

We also met leaders of the Yemeni political opposition and encouraged them to engage in the national dialogue process.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade: Bahrain

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will suspend the licensing of arms exports to Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [43382]

Mr Davey: We have reviewed licences issued for exports to Bahrain and have revoked those licences where we have concerns as a result of the regional tensions. However, there are currently no plans to suspend the licensing of arms sales to Bahrain although this situation remains under review. All future applications for export of equipment to Bahrain will continue to be carefully considered against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria taking into account how the situation develops.

Arms Trade: Licensing

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many licences were issued to companies for the export of arms to *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Bahrain, *(c)* Tunisia, *(d)* Libya and *(e)* Algeria in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value was of such transactions. [43573]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 2 March 2011]*: The Government publish information on export licences in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. Military, Other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Departmental Offices

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 736-7W, on departmental offices, what forms he expected his Department's Regional Offices support for capacity and capability to take; and what partnerships he expects to be formed. [43383]

Mr Prisk: The Department's local offices will have no programme funding. They will help local enterprise partnerships understand this Department priorities and how the new economic development delivery structures will operate. The local teams will also assist partnerships in their dialogue with Government about their roles and functions.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 737W, on departmental offices, by what means his Department's local economic priorities are determined. [43385]

Mr Prisk: The Department's local economic priorities are determined by BIS's overall priorities and this Department's assessment of the actions that it is best able to take to support delivery of these in local areas, working with local partners.

Green Economy Council

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what matters were discussed and decided at the inaugural Green Economy Council meeting on 16 February 2011; who sits on the Council; and if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* post on his Department's website a copy of (i) the minutes of the meeting and (ii) each paper circulated to participants. [43349]

Mr Prisk: The inaugural meeting of the Green Economy Council on 16 February discussed the Council's terms of reference and the Government's Roadmap to a Green Economy, which is currently being developed.

The Council's role is to advise Government on policy development and therefore copies of minutes and papers are restricted and will not be placed in the Library or on the Department's website.

The members of the Council are:

GEC Member	*Position*	*Company*
Peter Young	Chairman	Aldersgate Group
Richard Soper	MD	Bosch Thermotechnology Ltd
David Frost CBE	Director General	British Chambers of Commerce
Gearoid Lane	Managing Director, New Markets	Centrica
Shaun Mays	CEO	Climate Change Capital
Neil Bentley	Deputy Director General	CBI
Jonathan Short	MD	ECO Plastics Ltd
Joe Greenwell	Chairman	Ford UK
Andy Reynolds-Smith	Divisional Chief Executive (and Chairman, CBI Manufacturing Council)	GKN
Stephen Leonard	CEO	IBM
Tom Crotty	Chairman	Ineos
Dr Henri Winand	CEO	Intelligent Energy
Nigel Keen	Director Property Services	John Lewis Partnership
Nick Bunker	President, UK and Ireland	Kraft Foods
Dan Labbad	CEO Europe, Middle East and Africa (and Chairman, UK Green Building Council)	Lend Lease
Kate Craig-Wood	CEO	Memset
Heidi Mottram OBE	CEO	Northumbrian Water
Paul Noon	General Secretary	Prospect
Ian Goodfellow	MDUK	Shanks plc
Andreas Goss	Chief Executive, Siemens UK and Cluster North West Europe	Siemens
Mike Bushell	Chief Scientist	Syngenta
Uday Chaturvedi	Chief Technical Officer	Tata Steel Europe
Frances O'Grady	Deputy General Secretary	TUC

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to determine the level of funds to be released from asset sales to be provided to the proposed Green Investment Bank. [43989]

Mr Prisk: We are unable to provide commercially sensitive information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales at this stage. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales they are considering will be sufficient to provide significant additional funding above the £1 billion allocated to the

Green Investment Bank from departmental budgets. We will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

Industrial Health and Safety

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to launch the consultation on implementing an improved system for assessing health and safety standards for large companies with multiple outlets recommended in Lord Young's report, Common Sense, Common Safety. [41210]

Mr Prisk: This consultation will be launched in May this year, as part of a wider consultation on the Government's forthcoming White Paper on regulatory enforcement. This White Paper will set out our plans to reshape the regulatory system to increase levels of accountability, transparency and efficiency.

Following Lord Young's recommendations, and as part of the White Paper, we are working with national regulators, including the Health and Safety Executive, to develop inspection plan pilots involving several companies including Tesco, Sainsbury's and Asda, and local authorities across England. In these pilots, local authorities and national regulators will work with businesses—tailoring their inspection regimes to take account of the businesses' demonstrated commitment to regulatory compliance in specific areas, including health and safety.

For businesses, this will provide an opportunity to reduce the regulatory burden through earned recognition of their good practice, while for local authorities it will enable more efficient targeting of front line resources on the areas where they can really make a difference.

International Institute of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will direct Companies House to take no further steps in respect of the registration as a company of the International Institute of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring until the completion of an investigation into allegations of irregularities in its registration. [43273]

Mr Davey: There are no further steps that could be taken in respect of this registration. The International Institute of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring was incorporated in 2006.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission an investigation into allegations of irregularities in the registration at Companies House of the International Institute of Cricket Scoring and Umpiring. [43274]

Mr Davey: In light of further questions regarding the incorporation of International Institute of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring Limited, Companies House officials are reviewing the original decision with respect to the name of the company.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 492W, on knowledge transfer partnerships: finance, which projects and initiatives were funded by each regional development agency for innovation, collaboration and knowledge transfer partnerships in the five years referred to. [42862]

Mr Willetts: The regional development agencies cannot provide the information being requested. This information is not readily available and would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold to locate and extract the relevant data.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 492W, on knowledge transfer partnerships: finance, how many businesses received funding from each regional development agency for initiatives and projects for innovation, collaboration and knowledge transfer partnerships in the five years referred to; and if he will make a statement. [42863]

Mr Willetts: The information is as follows:

RDA	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
AWM[1]	956	1,086	773	1077	1,665
EEDA	54	109	142	133	155
EMDA	88	42	47	45	52
LDA[2]	0	194	188	390	718
NWDA[3]	5	7	13	10	14
ONE	7	54	175	339	402
SEEDA[4]	61	201	301	168	247
SWRDA[5]	13	27	21	16	27
YF	224	49	280	851	353

[1] AWM—The figures are from our annual reports and accounts from 2005/06 to 2009/10. These figures reflect the number of businesses collaborating with the knowledge base.

[2] LDA—LDA data are for 'Business Support—Collaborations' which is a widely used (though not always the only) output for innovation projects. Businesses achieving these outputs may not have received direct funding from the LDA but are the direct beneficiaries of LDA-funded programmes via delivery partners.

[3] NWDA—The figures provided relate to bodies that received grant monies that are non public sector and non university. The majority of our grant support in the collaboration/innovation and knowledge transfer has been with the university side or in establishing innovation parks etc rather that direct funding to businesses.

[4] SEEDA—The figures provided in the draft answer relate to Tasking Framework Output 4a (businesses in collaboration with the knowledge base) and are totals recorded for initiatives and projects including Collaborative Research and Development, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, Knowledge Networks, and Innovation Vouchers only. These figures do not include outputs provided by the regional Business Link service.

[5] SWRDA—Figures for South West RDA include recipients of Grants for Research and Development and National Aerospace Technology Strategy collaborative Research and Development projects. These projects vary in scale and many companies will benefit from the aerospace consortia projects, which have targets to support SMEs and university engagement at regional level.

Notes:

1. During the period South West RDA indirectly funded knowledge transfer partnerships in the environmental sector. For example, three businesses received funding as part of the Severn Embryonic Technology scheme in 2009/10. Figures for these businesses are not included above as South West RDA did not fund the businesses directly.
2. The number of businesses receiving innovation related grants under Grants for Business Investment or RDPE are not included in the figures above.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many local enterprise partnerships have representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* universities and *(c)* the voluntary sector on their boards. [43799]

Mr Prisk: To date the Government have formally recognised two local enterprise partnership boards. Both have representatives of universities on them but neither have representatives from either social enterprise or the voluntary sector.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 593W, on business: higher education, what discretionary funding each local authority has allocated to each local enterprise partnership in England; and if he will make a statement. [43925]

Mr Prisk: It is for local authorities to decide what level of their discretionary spending they allocate to local enterprise partnerships.

National Composites Centre

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which body owns the site of the National Composites Centre in Bristol. [43800]

Mr Prisk: The National Composites Centre (NCC) site is owned by South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and forms part of their freehold ownership of SPark Bristol and Bath Science Park. The NCC site will shortly be transferred to Bristol university on a 250 year lease and in accordance with a lease agreement signed by SWRDA and Bristol university in May 2010.

Business Investment: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage business investment in the West Midlands. [43610]

Mr Prisk: The Government are committed to ensuring that all parts of the UK achieve strong, balanced and sustainable growth.

At the local level we have encouraged businesses, local authorities and other key partners to form Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). These will use their knowledge of the obstacles to growth and opportunities in their area to drive actions to help local firms. Businesses and local authorities in the West Midlands have been quick to respond to this opportunity and six LEPs have been approved, covering the whole of the region.

At the national level the Government have taken a series of initiatives to improve the conditions for business growth, in particular by reducing the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 24%, benefiting firms in the West Midlands and across the UK. The Government are also extending the Enterprise Finance Guarantee until 2015, unlocking up to £2 billion of additional lending, and is increasing the Enterprise Capital Funds by £200 million over the next four years, enabling more than £300 million of venture capital investment. The Regional Growth Fund will focus on providing financial support to areas with weak private sectors, and we will announce the first allocation of funds shortly.

The growth review is working with business to identify obstacles to growth and will report back at the 2011 budget.

Overseas Trade: India

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government have taken on business co-operation between India and the UK since the Prime Minister's visit to India. [42096]

Mr Prisk: Since the Prime Minister's visit to India in July 2010, steps have included visits, activities and meetings to further develop business co-operation between the UK and India, led by Government Ministers in a range of areas of bilateral importance. These include climate change, education, and science and research. Where appropriate, we are engaging businesses in these areas of collaboration to ensure that our wider relationship has a positive impact for business.

Visits have included the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, my noble Friend Lord Sassoon, in September; the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell) and the Minister for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts) in November; and the visit in January by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), during which he co-chaired the Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting with Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, accompanied by a delegation of 50 British companies.

In November, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) hosted the UK-India Business Leaders Climate Group, focussed on ways the two countries and our businesses can work together to boost productivity, jobs and innovation, while also cutting carbon emissions.

In February the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne) and the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend Lord Green, participated in the first meeting of the UK-India CEO Forum in the UK. This meeting was co-chaired by Peter Sands, chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank plc and Ratan Tata, chairman Tata Group. It discussed ways to improve further UK-India bilateral trade and investment and will report back to both Prime Ministers.

The Government, through UK Trade and Investment, continue to deliver a full programme of work related to increasing UK exports, attracting more Indian investment into the UK and improving the business environment in both countries.

Regional Growth Fund: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bids for the Regional Growth Fund have been received from applicants in the West Midlands. [43485]

Mr Prisk: 464 bids have been received in Round 1 of Regional Growth Fund. Of these, 72 bids have been received from the West Midlands. A summary of bids received in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund is available on the BIS website:

www.bis.gov.uk/RGF

Renewable Energy Technology

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the marine energy sector which will be created as a result of planned expenditure on renewable energy technology. [42727]

Mr Prisk: The marine energy sector in the UK employed over 600 people in 2008-09, according to research commissioned by BIS. The Carbon Trust estimates 16,000 people could be employed in the sector by 2040. Government expenditure to promote renewable energy technologies is helping to achieve this potential.

Some of this expenditure is specifically targeted at the marine energy sector. We are providing funding for "Wave Hub" in Cornwall, the UK's first offshore facility to demonstrate the operation of arrays of wave energy devices, and for "Nautilus", an open access marine energy testing facility at the National Renewable Energy Centre in Northumberland.

Research: Charities

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the amount of funding provided by the charity sector for research conducted by universities in each of the last five years. [43804]

Mr Willetts: Data available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency show funding from UK based charities for research to higher education institutions in the UK for the last five years, as set out in the following table:

	Amount (£ million)
2005-06	725.6
2006-07	767.5
2007-08	827.1
2008-09	896.4
2009-10	917.1

Riot Control Weapons: Exports

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which countries the Government has licensed the export of tear gas in the last three years. [43381]

Mr Davey: The Government publish information on export licences in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. military, other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Small Businesses: Rural Areas

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of small and medium-sized businesses in rural areas. [42594]

Mr Prisk: This Department is currently reforming the way it assists the development of small and medium-sized businesses so that, whether or not they are in rural areas, they can access:

Online business information and tools tailored to each business' needs through improvements to the www.businesslink.gov.uk website or, for those who cannot access the information they need on the web or who are not connected to the internet, a national contact centre;

A network of at least 40,000 experienced business mentors offering practical advice to existing businesses and people who want to start a business;

International trade development support provided by UKTI;

A refocused range of Solutions for Business products that are better focussed on helping firms grow;

The Manufacturing Advisory Service; and

Business Coaching for Growth targeted at agglomerations of businesses with high growth potential.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions will be providing help for start-ups through a tailored package of measures, including an expansion in the planned New Enterprise Allowance, to help the unemployed become self-employed.

Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs), including those covering rural areas, may also seek to provide additional support to small and medium-sized businesses in their areas.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the core budget for the Technology Strategy Board for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [43926]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board will be formally notified of its allocation for the spending review period later this month.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 4 March 2011

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers: Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the likely cost of the annual grant from the Cabinet Office *(a)* towards the maintenance of and *(b)* to cover civilian staff employed at Chequers for 2011-12. [44273]

The Prime Minister: As has been the practice under successive Administrations, information on the Chequers grant will be included in the annual Cabinet Office report and accounts which is published at the end of the financial year.

COBRA

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers are entitled to convene a meeting of the COBRA crisis response committee. [44400]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie), on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 42.

Economic Governance Summit

Chris Leslie: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the EU Heads of Government Summit on Economic Governance to be held on 11 March 2011. [41865]

The Prime Minister: There is no EU Heads of Government Summit on Economic Governance on 11 March 2011. I will attend an Extraordinary European Council that day to discuss the situation in Libya. There will also be an inter-governmental event for leaders of countries from the eurozone area.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43755]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

However, approximate costs of external audit are available for the 2010-11 financial year. The Department will incur estimated costs of £75,000 on external audit, provided by the National Audit Office. This sum includes the cost of auditing the Department's arm's length bodies.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44358]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office does not have any staff in the civil service redeployment pool.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in its non-departmental public body. [43530]

Mr Paterson: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Licensing: Firearms

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many appeals against the refusal to grant a firearms licence were made to the Secretary of State in each year since 2005; and what proportion of such appeals were successful. [43186]

Mr Paterson: The following table indicates the number of appeals since 2005 against the chief constable's refusal to grant a firearm certificate. Since the devolution of Policing and Justice Powers in April 2010 I have only been responsible for national security firearms appeals where confidential information and personal protection weapons are involved. The remainder of appeals are for the Northern Ireland Justice Minister David Ford.

	Number of appeals	*Number of successful appeals*	*Percentage successful*
2005	104	7	7
2006	62	10	16
2007	70	7	10
2008	119	19	16
2009	193	90	47
2010	72	4	6
2011	[1]14	—	—

[1] Up to Tuesday 1 March.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43244]

Mr Paterson: Home civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office now receive HR support, including policies such as a volunteering policy, from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The MoJ has policies which allow employees to take time off, within specified limits, to fulfil specific volunteering roles such as magisterial duties and school governors, and general volunteering.

There are systems in place to allow employees to donate via payroll giving, such as through the 'Give As You Earn Scheme' or by employees making arrangements for voluntary deductions from pay.

WALES

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she expects her Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43310]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no in house catering facilities and does not source food.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will take steps to ensure that her published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum. [43527]

Mr David Jones: Our organisational chart was published in 2010 on the Wales Office website and will be updated at the end of the financial year. All information relating to staff in the SCS paybands at these levels has been disclosed.

Big Society

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps her Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42636]

Mr David Jones: I have met with civil society organisations to discuss their thoughts on the big society and how they see themselves fitting into the vision, as well as visiting schemes which are shining examples of the big society in action.

I have also discussed the big society vision with Carl Sargeant, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Social Justice, and my officials are in the process of setting up meetings with his, and colleagues from the Office for Civil Society, to discuss specific issues.

Further, in the early summer we intend to hold a seminar in Wales to discuss the big society and the opportunities that it offers.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43247]

Mr David Jones: Staff at the Wales Office are employed by the Ministry of Justice and the Welsh Assembly Government—both of these Departments have policies that enable and encourage volunteering. Both Departments also have "give as you earn" schemes as part of their payroll services to facilitate charitable donation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Decentralisation

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 530-1W, what assessment she has made of the extent of decentralisation to which regional management plans can be subject. [42108]

Richard Benyon: We need radical reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. Moving away from centralised micro-management to more effective regional management, by those closest to the fishery, is a key priority. Any changes must be compatible with the Treaties, but more responsibility for implementation can—and should—be devolved to member states, allowing them to work together regionally to put in place appropriate management measures, without creating layers of bureaucracy.

Marine Management Organisation: Fisheries

Mr Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the Marine Management Organisation did not appoint a representative of the cockle industry to the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities; and if she will make a statement. [40451]

Richard Benyon: Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) are made up of representatives from the constituent local authorities (who provide funding for the IFCA) along with people from across the different sectors that use or are knowledgeable about the inshore marine area, such as commercial and recreational fishermen, environmental groups and marine researchers, who offer their time voluntarily. The exercise to recruit these people known as appointees was a significant recruitment process carried out last year by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) working with DEFRA and Capita. The exercise generated considerable interest around the country and was delivered in line with the Nolan principles of public appointments. A total of 341 applications were received of which 283 candidates were interviewed and 111 appointments made to the 10 IFCAs around the country. All appointees were selected on merit against three main criteria set out in the information sent out to all candidates:

An active interest and involvement in the local community;

A passion for making a positive difference in the local area;

Excellent communication, influencing and participation skills.

Not all of the Sea Fisheries Committee appointees who applied around the country were successful in being appointed to the local IFCA. If candidates were not successful it was because other applicants in the same category scored higher in the discussion interviews. In the example of the Kent and Essex IFCA, the MMO was asked to appoint nine appointees to cover all of the disciplines and three appointees from the commercial fishing sector were appointed.

The IFCAs will be undertaking a broader range of issues and duties when they replace sea Fisheries Committees and it is not possible for a spokesman from individual associations or industry groups to be appointed. I am sure however that the Sea Fisheries Committee and the IFCA going forwards will wish to maintain close links and discussions with the local cockle industry since the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Regulating Order forms an important part of the fisheries management and enforcement work. The quarterly meetings are also open to the public and there is no reason that industry representatives cannot attend these meetings to hear the business that is being discussed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons Commission has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43251]

John Thurso: In January 2010, the House of Commons published its Single Equality Scheme which contains a commitment to:

> "engage the local and wider community through outreach work, work experience schemes, voluntary activities, etc".

This action has been taken forward through various activities, including:

> Co-operation with CSV, an employee volunteering organisation which arranges and supports teams participating in practical activities which benefit and make a visible difference to the local community. Seven team challenges have been contracted in 2010. Teams of staff from across the House Service have participated in activities such as gardening for Help the Aged and painting buildings for Art in the Park.
>
> Participation in the National Mentoring Consortium's Ethnic Minority Undergraduate Scheme (EMUS). Undergraduates from ethnic minorities studying at London universities are matched with staff volunteers, with the aim of enhancing the employability and career skills of those mentored.
>
> Offering work experience opportunities. The largest take-up is from Year 10 students undertaking work-based placements as part of the national curriculum. House staff volunteer to supervise a student for one or two weeks to introduce them to the workplace and promote the House of Commons as a potential employer.
>
> An initiative to coach teachers from Southwark schools. The coaching will be carried out on the parliamentary estate by House staff who hold an accredited advanced coaching qualification and have volunteered their time.

The House has the facility to allow employees to donate through Give As You Earn (GAYE). In February 2011, 42 people donated in this way.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what expenditure his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43763]

David Mundell: The National Audit Office provides all external audit services to the Scotland Office. The indicative costs in each of the last three years are as follows:

	£
2007-08	25,500
2008-09	26,000
2009-10	26,000

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43312]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office procures very few food products. In instructing caterers for events paid for by the Scotland Office, regard is had to whether the food procured meets British standards of production.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44359]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. However, we can confirm that there are no Scotland Office staff currently on either the Scottish Government or Ministry of Justice redeployment pools.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum. [43528]

David Mundell: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Overseas Visits

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans Ministers and officials of his Department have for overseas visits in the next 12 months. [43493]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office will consider opportunities to promote Scotland overseas provided the costs are justified and give maximum value to taxpayers.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42652]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are actively involved with numerous charities on a private basis.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43245]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. Both the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government facilitate volunteering among their staff and both bodies participate in the 'Give as You Earn' scheme which allows staff to make charitable donations through employers' payroll.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Public Expenditure

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding allocated to the expansion of broadband provision announced in the comprehensive spending review he estimates will be spent in Scotland. [43490]

Mr Vaizey: £530 million of funding to support broadband rollout is available up to 2015. The Highlands and Islands of Scotland was announced as one of the pilot projects at the time of the comprehensive spending review. My officials have been working with the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to define the project in more detail. The expected funding for this project will be between £5 and £10 million. No further specific allocations for projects in Scotland have been made yet but my officials continue to work closely with the Scottish Government and Scotland Office on plans to support broadband roll out in Scotland.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43324]

John Penrose: The Department does not source food as part of its day to day business, following the closure of the staff canteen in December 2009.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department incurred on the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010. [43056]

John Penrose: The cost to produce the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 and its distribution was approximately £560,000 funded through grant in aid provided to the Gambling Commission by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Internet

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to increase access to the internet for *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with low incomes before the date of the proposed digitalisation of the benefits system; and if he will make a statement. [43130]

Mr Vaizey: Martha Lane Fox was reappointed, in June 2010, as the UK Digital Champion to champion the work to get everyone online. Martha has been working with UK Online centres to bridge the digital divide and hopes this can be achieved by offering a computing package, complete with telephone, for less than £100. The scheme, which was launched in 2010, is only at the pilot stage but Ms Lane Fox hopes it can be extended across the country.

The £98 package will be sold through 60 UK online centres and Remploy, a company which is refurbishing and selling the PCs, hope to sell more than 8,000.

Public Libraries: Closures

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the effects of proposed library closures on the ability of *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with low incomes to make enquiries and applications relating to benefits and pensions online; and if he will make a statement. [43131]

Mr Vaizey: Responsibility and accountability for day to day management of individual library services is vested in local authorities. Local authorities must be able to show that they have discharged their statutory duty to understand the local needs for library services in their area and to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to meet those needs, including the needs of older people and people on low incomes. We continue to monitor and assess proposals and decisions being made about changes to library services across England.

Sports: Expenditure

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effects of reduced local authority expenditure on sports and leisure facilities. [42186]

Hugh Robertson: I regularly discuss a range of issues with colleagues at the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Sport England's £135 million mass participation legacy plan Places People Play will bring the sporting legacy to life in communities across the country to deliver a sustainable increase in adult participation for the Games and beyond by improving local sports facilities and by getting more people involved in grassroots sporting activities and in Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Sports: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what changes to sports facilities in Scotland he expects to take place as part of preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. [43414]

Hugh Robertson: Hampden Park, Glasgow, is the only London 2012 Olympic venue in Scotland and will stage both the men's and women's football matches. Hampden Park is currently a FIFA and UEFA compliant football stadium and meets the criteria for holding international and domestic football matches. Therefore, we do not expect any structural changes to be made to the stadium in order to stage these matches, although the sponsor branding will be changed to use the London 2012 dressing.

Three countries have confirmed that they will use facilities in Scotland as Pre-London 2012 Games Training Camps. The British Swimming Team will use the Royal Commonwealth Pool (RCP) in Edinburgh, which is currently undergoing a refurbishment for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and will be completed in time so that it can act as a pre-London 2012 Games training facility. Namibia and Zambia will use The Palace for Art Centre for Sports Excellence—Scotstoun Leisure Centre in Glasgow. The venue is already in use and will also be staging squash and table tennis competitions at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. As both the RCP and Scotstoun Leisure Centre are already equipped for use no changes are required apart from London 2012 branding being used when teams are training.

Tourism

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and *(b)* Ministers of other devolved Administrations on the European Destinations of Excellence (Eden) tourism programme. [41916]

John Penrose: Neither the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), nor I have had any discussions with Ministers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland about the European Destinations of Excellence project (EDEN). My Department has had previous discussions with officials in the devolved Administrations about the project, which led to the UK's decision not to participate.

This issue was recently raised by Jill Evans MEP, and I wrote to her on 23 February.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43233]

John Penrose: The Department strongly supports staff volunteering as an aid to self development, as well as play an active role in their local communities. DCMS currently allows five days paid special leave each year for staff to become involved in a range of voluntary activities, which can range from acting as a School Governor to working with local and national charities.

In addition, as the lead Government Department for London 2012, DCMS has an important obligation to lead the way on encouraging participation in the Games at all levels. The Department has recently extended its existing policy on volunteering to cover both the London Ambassador's and Games Maker Programme.

The Department does not have a policy in place allowing staff to donate to charities via payroll, however should staff wish to donate guidance is provided on our intranet site.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biochar

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the policy of his Department is on the inclusion of biochar in its energy efficiency scheme. [44019]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal finance will only support measures that can be expected to pay for themselves in energy bill savings over their lifetime and within the period of the finance arrangement. Based on this principle, it appears that biochar would be unlikely to attract Green Deal finance.

We will shortly launch a Call for Evidence from industry and other stakeholders on the costs and performance of a wide range of measures to determine what they can deliver in terms of energy savings.

Electricity

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent estimate he has made of the scale of power losses from *(a)* overhead electricity lines, *(b)* underground cables and *(c)* sub-sea cables; [43225]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the security of electricity supply through *(a)* overhead electricity lines, *(b)* underground cables and *(c)* sub-sea cables. [43226]

Charles Hendry: The Government have made no recent assessment of power losses from, or the security of electricity supply through, *(a)* overhead electricity lines, *(b)* underground cables and *(c)* sub-sea cables. An independent study by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and consultants KEMA on the costs of GB electricity transmission infrastructure options will address both aspects.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will issue guidance to the National Grid on the quantitative and transparent costings of *(a)* the (i) costs in power losses and (ii) other whole-life financial costs and *(b)* the social, economic and environmental benefits and disbenefits of electricity connection schemes. [43342]

Charles Hendry: The Government have no plans to issue such guidance. An independent study by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and consultants KEMA on the costs of GB electricity transmission infrastructure options will address costs in power losses and other whole-life financial costs. The results of this work will be published. It is for the Infrastructure Planning Commission to assess each electricity connection scheme on a case by case basis depending on its specific circumstances, as stated in the draft energy National Policy Statements. The Government intend to finalise and formally approve the energy National Policy Statements in spring 2011.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will issue guidance to the National Grid on the factors to be taken into account in balancing the provision of *(a)* Section 9 of and *(b)* Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989. [43343]

Charles Hendry: The network companies, including National Grid, are responsible for developing their networks in line with their licence obligations and, as part of the price control process, Ofgem considers the costs, and other factors such as need, for electricity networks based on investment proposals put forward by network companies in line with its statutory duties. In developing the transmission price control (RIIO-T1) for 2013-21 Ofgem is engaging with the Department and other stakeholders across a range of matters including what further guidance might be provided to help network companies (and stakeholders) consider the broader environmental costs and benefits of their potential investment decisions. Ofgem will set out its views in this area in its end-March 2011 RIIO-T1 strategy document.

Environment Protection: Metals

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the effects of demand for rare earth metals on British firms developing green technologies. [44514]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has not had discussions with Chinese counterparts on the effects of demand for rare earth metals on British firms developing green technologies.

Green Deal

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of households in each *(a)* property type and *(b)* region which will not qualify for Green Deal finance because they do not meet the golden rule. [44146]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal finance will support the installation of measures that can be expected to pay for themselves in energy bill savings over their lifetime and within the period of the finance arrangement.

Whether a measure meets this golden rule will depend on the circumstances of the individual property, including what measures have already been installed. Failure to meet the golden rule is unlikely to be a wide-spread issue, but the precise nature of what Green Deal finance will cover will be subject to individual assessments.

For vulnerable households where fuel bill savings are likely to be lower, and for properties which are more expensive to treat, the new Energy Company Obligation will work alongside Green Deal finance.

Hinkley C Connection Project

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with National Grid on the proposed Hinkley C Connection Project. [43227]

Charles Hendry: The arrangements for connection of individual power stations to the transmission network are a matter for project developers and National Grid. While the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), does meet regularly with National Grid to discuss general transmission issues, he has not had any recent discussions with National Grid specifically about the proposed Hinkley C project.

Metals: Wind Power

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment has been made of the environmental effects of sourcing rare earth metals from China for use in wind farms; and if he will make a statement; [43125]

(2) what assessment has been made of the scope for using alternatives to rare earth metals in the manufacture of turbines for use in wind farms; and if he will make a statement. [43126]

Charles Hendry: We are aware of the recent concerns in the press relating to the availability of so-called rare earth metals from China and their potential use in magnets built into wind turbines.

I understand that the use of rare earth metals is almost non-existent in commercial scale turbines in the UK (and only 4 to 5% of turbines worldwide) and that the demand for these metals is driven by a wide range of electronic and industrial applications including batteries, laptops and alloys for the aerospace industry.

My officials are in regular contact with wind developers and turbine manufacturers as well as renewable trade associations and will continue to keep this issue under review.

Nuclear Power Stations

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to secure capacity at disposal facilities for low level waste streams arising from *(a)* decommissioned nuclear facilities and *(b)* the nuclear new build programme. [43102]

Charles Hendry: The management of Low Level Waste (LLW) focuses on the waste hierarchy, aiming to minimise the amount of LLW for disposal while making the best use of available disposal routes. Most LLW currently goes to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria, some is disposed of at its point of arising and small amounts are also disposed of to some specific landfills.

The UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Industry sets out the approach to the management of solid low level radioactive wastes arising from the nuclear industry, including those facilities undergoing decommissioning. The strategy is primarily aimed at nuclear industry waste producers, environmental regulators and waste planning bodies. The aim is to provide a framework within which management decisions can be taken flexibly to ensure safe, environmentally acceptable and cost-effective disposal management solutions that reflect the nature of the materials concerned. The Strategy conserves capacity at the LLWR and also considers the potential LLW arising from new nuclear power stations, as far as is possible at this time.

Nuclear Power: Cumbria

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the role of healthcare services in West Cumbria in the delivery of national nuclear policy. [44173]

Charles Hendry: There is a dedicated mechanism in place through the West Cumbria Strategic Forum to facilitate an appropriately joined up view across Government of policy decisions affecting West Cumbria, including those relating to healthcare.

There are ongoing routine discussions between my officials and representatives of other Departments who participate in the forum, including the Department of Health.

Nuclear Waste

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will produce a draft National Policy Statement on nuclear waste infrastructure in addition to the revised draft National Policy Statements on energy infrastructure. [43103]

Charles Hendry: The draft Nuclear National Policy Statement covers on site waste management facilities that are part of the development of a new nuclear power station.

In terms of higher activity radioactive waste disposal, Government are currently implementing a process to site a geological disposal facility:

http://mrws.decc.gov.uk/

While not having yet taken a final decision, Government are currently inclined to apply the major infrastructure planning system and if so will bring forward the necessary legislation and will produce a draft National Policy Statement.

There are no plans to produce a draft National Policy Statement for low level radioactive waste (LLW) as there are currently no proposals for nationally significant infrastructure projects. LLW management focuses on the waste hierarchy, aiming to minimise the amount of LLW for disposal while making the best use of disposal routes. Most LLW currently goes to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria, some is disposed of at its point of arising and small amounts are also disposed of to some specific landfills.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the proportion and quantity of low level waste at decommissioned nuclear facilities that cannot be reused, recycled, recovered or disposed on site and will be sent to landfill. [43104]

Charles Hendry: The 2007 Radioactive Waste Inventory is the latest public record of information on the sources, quantities and properties of radioactive waste in the UK at 1 April 2007 and records 236,000 cubic metres of Low Level Waste (LLW). A further 3,230,000 cubic metres is expected from existing facilities from now until the end of their life. The inventory has recently been assessed and an updated UK Radioactive Waste Inventory, will be published shortly by the NDA. The strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the UK Nuclear Industry sets out how the waste hierarchy should be implemented in LLW management.

Decommissioning LLW will only arise in large quantities as redundant facilities are demolished in the future. The management of this material will be continuously optimised as it arises, in line with the waste hierarchy. Most operational LLW currently goes to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria, some is disposed of at its point of arising and small amounts are also disposed of to some specific landfills, approximately 14,000 cubic metres of LLW being sent to specified landfills in 2010. LLW Repository Ltd, the site licence company who operate the LLWR in Cumbria, is currently undertaking a review of the capacity of the Repository as part of the Environmental Safety Case process which, once complete in May 2011, will help determine the amount of low level waste that could be disposed of via this route.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether consented capacity for low level waste storage meets the existing inventory of low level waste at decommissioned nuclear power stations. [43105]

Charles Hendry: Most existing Low Level Waste (LLW) currently goes to the UK Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria, some is disposed of at its point of arising and small amounts are also disposed of to some specific landfills. Decommissioning LLW will only arise in large quantities as redundant facilities are demolished in the future.

The LLWR recently opened a new vault (Vault 9) that, is currently licensed for storage, pending permissioning as a disposal facility, once the Environmental Safety Case has been approved by the Environment Agency (EA). Vault 9 together with developments at Dounreay is expected to provide the UK with sufficient LLW waste disposal capacity for at least 10 years. This vault alone will not accommodate all the anticipated future arisings of decommissioning LLW, so further extensions may be required. The life of Vault 9 (and indeed the LLWR overall), will be greatly extended through application of the waste hierarchy and recycling and reuse of suitable material. This approach is outlined in the UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Industry, published in August 2010. The Environmental Safety Case will determine what the ultimate capacity of the LLWR site could be.

Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd are planning to construct disposal vaults adjacent to the site to ensure the safe, long-term management of 175,000 cubic metres of LLW arising from decommissioning of the site. Construction work will begin in autumn 2011 and, subject to regulatory consent, the facility is scheduled to operate from 2014 to 2025.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the capacity of permitted landfill sites for the storage of low level waste. [43106]

Charles Hendry: Existing low level waste (LLW) is managed and disposed of as it arises, with LLW management routes focused on the waste hierarchy; aiming to minimise the amount of LLW for disposal whilst making the best use of available disposal routes. Most LLW currently goes to the LLW Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria, some is disposed of at its point of arising and small amounts are also disposed of to some specific landfills.

A number of landfill sites around the UK currently accept small disposals of very low level waste (VLLW) from hospitals and other non-nuclear industries. Only some of these sites are currently permitted to accept greater volumes of VLLW and LLW from the nuclear industry; the largest being Clifton Marsh in Lancashire. Clifton Marsh has been accepting waste for disposal since 1986, under authorisations held by the waste producers. The overall capacity of the site is around 9 million cubic metres, but only 10% of this will be LLW, with the remainder being everyday household and commercial waste.

Some landfill sites are currently going through the process of seeking permission to accept LLW, in line with the UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Industry. This process requires the operator to obtain an Environmental Permit (in England and Wales) or a Radioactive Substances Authorisation (in Scotland) and relevant planning permission. Planning permission may or may not require amendment for an existing landfill site.

Nuclear Industry: Subsidy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment *(a)* he and *(b)* consultants contracted by his Department have made of compliance with EU state aid rules of the support to commercial nuclear plant operators from the public purse; and how many representations he has received in the last six months on subsidy of the UK nuclear industry from the public purse. [43431]

Charles Hendry: The Government are always concerned to ensure that its policies and practices are compliant with EU law, including where relevant the state aid regime. For example, the Government will ensure that its approach to taking title to and liability for intermediate level waste and spent fuel, which is currently the subject of a public consultation, will be compliant with EU state aid rules.

The Department regularly receives representations from various stakeholders about a wide range of issues. This has in the last six months included around 20 pieces of correspondence making representations or requesting clarification about the Government's policy that there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power. Partly in light of these, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), made a written ministerial statement to Parliament on 18 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 42-46WS, setting out the policy in more detail.

Renewable Energy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will issue guidance to the National Grid on the quantitative and transparent determination of the environmental, economic and social costs of major electricity connection projects associated with the development of renewable energy generation projects. [43341]

Charles Hendry: It is for the Infrastructure Planning Commission to assess each electricity connection scheme across all types of generation projects on a case by case basis depending on its specific circumstances, as stated in the draft energy National Policy Statements. The Government intend to finalise and formally approve the energy National Policy Statements in spring 2011.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43236]

Gregory Barker: I can confirm that the Department of Energy and Climate Change:

(a) has a policy to encourage its staff to volunteer

(b) has a policy which sets out the benefits of making charitable donations via payroll giving.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Gangs

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes identified as directly or indirectly related to gang activity were recorded in *(a)* London, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [43825]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected through the police recorded crime statistics and is not available centrally.

Crime Maps

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether hoax telephone calls are recorded as incidents of antisocial behaviour for the purposes of categorisation on the online crime map; [43450]

(2) whether her Department plans to refine the display of crime statistics on the online crime map; and with what frequency she expects information on the map to be updated; [43451]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of producing the crime mapping website; [43452]

(4) what account her Department took of the effect on *(a)* local residents, *(b)* house prices, *(c)* levels of awareness of crime and *(d)* levels of community cohesion of the publication of online crime maps; and if she will make a statement; [43453]

(5) what assessment she has made of the accuracy of statistics published on the crime mapping website. [43454]

James Brokenshire: Greater transparency is at the heart of our commitment to open up Government to greater scrutiny and allow the public to hold local services to account.

This is why, for the first time ever, the Government have provided communities across England and Wales with access to monthly street level crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) data alongside key information on neighbourhood policing.

Hoax telephone calls to the emergency services are expected to be shown on

www.Police.uk

as incidents of ASB. All crime and ASB data are provided by individual police forces. Forces are therefore responsible for the accuracy of the data and we will continue to work with them to review and update the information provided.

The Government have ensured that development costs have been minimised. Implementing crime mapping cost approximately £300,000 and drew on research involving over 7,000 people who were asked their views on local crime information, including crime maps. We continue to seek the views of the public through the feedback facility on the website.

Through the provision of street level crime and ASB data the Government are giving communities the information they need to be able to hold their local police to account. Since its launch, Police.uk has received almost 400 million hits demonstrating the significant public appetite for this information.

Missing Persons

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to establish an inter-departmental ministerial group on missing persons to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Missing Persons Taskforce. [44160]

James Brokenshire: I am continuing to assess the recommendations of the Missing Persons Taskforce. I have met with ministerial colleagues from the Department for Education and the Department of Health as part of this work.

The need to improve the response to missing persons is important to the Government. I have established a senior officials group to advise Ministers on the priorities for missing persons services arising from the Taskforce recommendations.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of neighbourhood watch schemes that are in operation. [44371]

James Brokenshire: There are no centrally held figures to show the number of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) schemes. The Insurance Company which provides public liability insurance to registered Neighbourhood Watch schemes reports that 121,000 NHW coordinators registered for the insurance in 2010-11, providing cover for around 7.6 million households.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Attorney-General when he expects the Law Officers' Departments to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43307]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Treasury Solicitor's Department are the only Law Officers Departments which provide catering services to staff.

Neither Department sources or procures food directly. This task is undertaken by contracted catering service providers. All such suppliers are required to adhere to current laws and regulations relating to the procurement of food and continue to maintain a commitment to the Government Buying Standards for food and catering services.

The Government Buying Standards are mandatory for central Government and their Executive agencies. They require central Government to source food, subject to no overall increase in costs, meeting UK or equivalent standards of production.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Attorney-General if he will take steps to ensure that the Law Officers' Departments' published organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the agencies for which he is responsible. [43547]

The Attorney-General: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Prisoners: Crimes of Violence

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Attorney-General on how many occasions the Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to progress with a case of assault by an offender whilst in custody due to it not being in the public interest in each of the last 10 years. [43809]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is not recorded centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Law Officers' Departments have a policy to encourage employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43250]

The Attorney-General: With the exception of the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate the Law Officers Departments have policies in place to allow staff to engage in a range of voluntary activities, and actively encourages staff to do so. This includes special leave for voluntary activities where appropriate.

The Attorney-General's Office, Crown Prosecution Service and Treasury Solicitor's Department also facilitate payroll giving by employees.

TRANSPORT

A19

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the A19 on economic growth and employment in the North East. [42157]

Mike Penning: As part of the spending review, we have assessed the effects of all forthcoming transport improvements. Some tough decisions had to be made on which schemes were prioritised. As part of that review the public value for money of every scheme was considered. In the case of the A19 we concluded that the schemes at Testos and Coast Road would remain in the programme for future delivery. While we have had to prioritise spending, we have continued transport investment in the North East, including the £350 million upgrade of the Tyne and Wear Metro.

Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library copies of the reimbursement agreements his Department reached with Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme after 12 February 2009; and what the total monetary value is of reimbursement payments made to the consortium under such agreements to date. [42721]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* There are no reimbursement agreements with Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme, and so the value of reimbursement payments to date is zero.

Bus Services: Concessions

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in the cost to the public purse of concessionary bus fares arising from changes to eligibility in the next four financial year. [42432]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum to The Travel Concessions (Eligibility) England Order 2010 No. 459 which can be found at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/459/pdfs/uksiem_20100459_en.pdf

Crossrail: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department plans to spend on Crossrail under each cost category in each financial year until the end of the project. [42970]

Mrs Villiers: For the Secretary of State's capital grant to Crossrail during the Spending Review Period I refer the Hon. Member to my answer given on 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 332W.

A further £800 million capital grant will be required outside of the Spending Review period to complete the Secretary of State's agreed grant to Crossrail.

The Secretary of State expects to receive contributions towards meeting his agreed grant from BAA and the City of London.

Departmental Interpreters

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies interpreters provide services in a language or languages other than English; how many interpreters are employed or subcontracted for each non-English language; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of interpretation costs incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [42897]

Norman Baker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42377]

Norman Baker: The Central Department and its seven executive Agencies identified the following number of (a) actual and (b) full-time equivalent staff employed as at 31/01/11. The total includes both permanent and non-permanent employees. The data is from the Department's Management Information.

(a) The number of actual staff employed as at 31 January 2011 is 18,753 (1,895 of which were employed in the Central Department).

(b) The number of full-time equivalent staff employed as at 31 January 2011 is 17,713 (1,849 of which were employed in the Central Department).

The Department is undergoing organisational restructuring to contribute to the Spending Review commitment of a 33% reduction in administration budget (composed of pay and non-pay costs) during the spending review period.

McNulty Rail Value for Money Study

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by L.E.K. Consulting, on the options for future reform to the structure of Network Rail, commissioned by the McNulty Rail Value for Money study. [42722]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The report is still in draft form and may contain confidential information. The final report will be published, alongside the McNulty report itself, later in the spring.

Network Rail: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projects over what time periods will be funded from the £14 billion funding allocation to Network Rail for capital maintenance and infrastructure. [42314]

Mrs Villiers: The latest update of the information requested will be set out in the 2011 version of Network Rail's Delivery Plan for Control Period 4 (1 April 2009 to 31 March 2014). This is due to be published shortly.

Fuel Quality Directive

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on proposals for inclusion of a default value for tar sands in the Fuel Quality Directive. [43404]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The European Commission is currently assessing options for a methodology to account for the greenhouse gas emissions of fossil fuels for use in reporting overall progress against the Fuel Quality Directive's greenhouse gas targets.

While several options have been explored with member states and stakeholders, the European Commission has yet to come forward with firm proposals for an accounting methodology, or for other necessary implementing measures.

We believe that any methodology should account for greenhouse gas emissions from all crude sources, including tar sands, and that such a methodology should be based on robust and objective data, and should treat all crude sources equitably. I have personally written to the Commissioner for Climate Action urging her to investigate whether sufficient data is available to enable a detailed fossil fuel greenhouse gas accounting methodology to be developed and encouraging the European Commission to work more openly with member states and other stakeholders.

Pedestrian Crossings

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of new signal-controlled pedestrian crossings installed in the last three years were *(a)* pelican, *(b)* puffin, *(c)* toucan and *(d)* other forms of signal-controlled pedestrian crossings. [43669]

Norman Baker: All decisions to install or alter pedestrian crossing facilities are taken at local level and the Department does not hold information regarding numbers or types of crossing installed by local authorities.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pelican crossings have been replaced by puffin crossings in the last 10 years. [43670]

Norman Baker: I am afraid that the Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of pelican crossings which have been replaced by puffin crossings in the last 10 years. This information is held by individual local authorities.

Public Transport: Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to ensure that all forms of public transport are accessible equally to sighted and to visually-impaired passengers. [43175]

Norman Baker: The Department is committed to ensuring equal, and safe, access to public transport for everyone, including for disabled people.

The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Requirements 2000 (as amended) and the Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 1998 (as amended) contain a number of requirements to facilitate access for people with visual impairments. These include audible door signals and colour contrasting of features, such as handrails and steps, intended to help visually-impaired people when physically negotiating public transport vehicles.

Audio-visual passenger information systems can be a key source of information to many disabled passengers. The regulations require such systems on trains. On buses, however, the levels of provision vary. I do not at this point intend to legislate to make audio-visual systems on buses mandatory, but will write to operators and manufacturers encouraging them to work in partnership with Local Authorities to increase the uptake of these systems.

The Department is monitoring progress to ensure vehicles meet accessibility standards by set target dates—the latest of which is 2020.

A large number of stations being funded from the Department's Access for All programme will have accessibility improvements which will have direct benefits to visually impaired passengers.

For those who are not confident using public transport, the Department champions increased levels of travel training , and is aiming to produce a website of good practice this spring.

In addition, on 1 October 2010, we commenced provisions in the Equality Act 2010 that require the drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles to carry assistance dogs. These provisions replicate the effect of, and replace, provisions originally contained in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Railway Stations: Travel Information

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the frequency of public service announcements at rail stations is regulated by his Department. [43187]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not regulate the frequency of public service announcements at rail stations. This is an operational matter for train operators, and Network Rail. There is a requirement for public security announcements to be made at rail stations as part of our National Rail Security Programme.

Railways: Concessions

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* current employees, *(b)* former employees and *(c)* board members of Network Rail who receive free travel. [34128]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* The Department for Transport does not hold any information on the number of current employees, former employees and board members of Network Rail who receive free travel.

Railways: Fares

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenue from rail fares accrued to *(a)* each train operating company and *(b)* his Department in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much he expects to accrue to each in the next four financial years. [42431]

Mrs Villiers: The Office of Rail Regulation publishes revenue figures for the GB rail industry including breakdowns by sectors in National Rail Trends (NRT). This is available on the Office of Rail Regulation website

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Revenue figures for individual train operating companies are commercially confidential.

During franchise competitions bidders produce revenue forecasts for individual lines of route. The Department for Transport does not publish franchise-specific revenue forecasts; however, the latest published forecast of total passenger kilometres broken down by sector is available in 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway' (July 2007) on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/whitepapercm7176/

Railways: Snow and Ice

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 350W, on railways: snow and ice, what the outcome was of the discussions on the issue of stranded trains with senior representatives of the train operators and Network Rail; and if he will make a statement. [39332]

Mrs Villiers: The independent audit by David Quarmby CBE, published on 21 December 2010, highlighted examples of stranded trains in conditions of snow that was so deep that emergency rescue was difficult to organise in short timescales. The rail industry National Task Force (NTF) has confirmed that the issue of stranded trains would be investigated again by the Association of Train Operating Companies and the relevant operators.

The rail industry's work on lessons learned on winter resilience issues is still underway, and I will continue to monitor progress of this work through my regular meetings with senior rail industry representatives.

Shipping: Oil

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the benefit to the local economy of the designation of an area off the coast of East Anglia as an approved location for the ship-to-ship transfer of oil; [43259]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of potential *(a)* changes in the level of shipping traffic off the coast of East Anglia and *(b)* risks of collisions between vessels arising from implementation of its decision on permitted locations for the ship-to-ship transfer of oil off the east coast; [43260]

(3) what regulations govern the *(a)* conditions and *(b)* safety procedures for vessels undertaking ship-to-ship transfers of oil in UK waters; [43262]

(4) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between levels of shipping traffic in UK coastal waters and incidences of collisions between vessels. [43407]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* It is our intention that the area off the Suffolk coast where ship-to-ship transfers are monitored by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) under existing arrangements will be formally recognised as the 'permit area' for ship-to-ship transfers in forthcoming secondary legislation. This area off Suffolk has, for several years now, been the only location in UK jurisdiction where the MCA allows ship-to-ship transfers (other than those in a harbour authority area) to be carried out. These waters are recognised by the MCA and by the industry as a suitable area for carrying out ship-to-ship transfers on navigational safety grounds.

Consequently:

> as the activity will take place in the same waters as at present, we anticipate that the same benefit to the local economy, which is currently experienced in that part of East Anglia, will continue and we do not anticipate any significant change in the level of shipping traffic off the coast of East Anglia;
>
> while we are aware of the risks of collisions involving a ship on its way to, engaged in or on its way from a ship-to-ship transfer operation, we do not anticipate that the formal recognition in the legislation that these are the waters where ship-to-ship transfers are allowed will increase that risk;
>
> whereas currently there are no regulations in force governing ship-to-ship transfers, and the MCA's application system, instructions and guidelines function without the backing of legal sanctions, under the forthcoming secondary legislation the MCA will have legal sanctions to ensure that ship-to-ship transfers are conducted to a high standard with regard to maritime safety and the protection of the marine and coastal environment;

the MCA monitors ship-to-ship transfer activity in the waters off the Suffolk coast, and is consequently aware of the relationship between levels of shipping traffic in these waters and incidences of collisions between vessels. We are also aware of the data contained in the Marine Accident Investigation Branch's report on the collision between mt Saetta and mt Conger published in 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 681-82W, on disability living allowance: Scotland, if he will introduce systems to estimate *(a)* the number of recipients of disability living allowance in (i) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and (ii) Scotland who will be reassessed in each of the next five years, and *(b)* the cost to the public purse. [44179]

Maria Miller: We will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. From 2013 we will begin reassessing all existing working-age disability living allowance caseload and transferring people to personal independence payment where appropriate. We are continuing to work on the design of personal independence payment and the new assessment, which we are developing in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health, disability and social care, including disabled people.

The detailed approach for migrating the current disability living allowance working age caseload to the new personal independent payment has yet to be designed and therefore the numbers to be migrated each year and the costs, have yet to be established.

Disability: Cost of Living

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider implementing the recommendations of the recent Scope/Demos report on additional costs faced by disabled people. [37458]

Maria Miller: We have read the Scope/Demos research report "Counting the Cost", and have met Scope to discuss its findings. We know that disabled people face additional costs to leading full and active lives. The personal independence payment will continue to provide a contribution towards these costs.

The consultation on DLA reform closed on 18 February 2011 and the Government plan to publish their response in the spring,

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each region to be affected by the limit on housing benefit for under-occupants in the social sector are under-occupying a property by *(a)* one and *(b)* two or more bedrooms. [44229]

Steve Webb: The estimated impact of changes to housing benefit for working-age tenants living in the social rented sector is based upon information collected in the Department's Family Resources Survey. Because the survey collects information from a sample of households, we cannot produce reliable estimates for the number of claimants affected by both region and by the degree of their under-occupation.

In February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an impact assessment entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill. The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

The impact assessment included regional estimates for working age housing benefit recipients living in social housing, under-occupying their home and who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria in social-rented housing.

Government Office Region	*Estimated number of claimants affected*	*Affected claimants as % of working-age SRS HB claimants In each region*	*Average weekly HB loss per affected claimant (2013-14) (£)*
North East	50,000	46	12
North West	120,000	43	12
Yorkshire and Humberside	70,000	36	11
East Midlands	50,000	37	11
West Midlands	60,000	33	14
Eastern	60,000	36	14
London	70,000	19	21
South East	50,000	26	15
South West	30,000	28	13
Wales	40,000	42	11
Scotland	70,000	32	11
Great Britain	670,000	32	13

Source:
Policy Simulation Model, using 2008-09 reference data from the Family Resource Survey

The impact assessment also included a national estimate of the extent to which affected claimants were under-occupying their accommodation.

Under occupation of accommodation by	*Estimated number of affected claimants*	*Percentage of affected claimants*	*Average weekly housing benefit loss per affected claimant (2013-14) (£)*
One bedroom	530,000	78	11
Two or more bedrooms	150,000	22	20
All bedrooms	[1]670,000	100	13

[1] Total numbers do not sum because of independent rounding.

Source:

Policy Simulation Model, using 2008-09 reference data from the Family Resource Survey.

On a national basis we estimate that approximately 78% of affected working age claimants would be under occupying their accommodation by one bedroom, and 22% would be under occupying accommodation by two or more bedrooms.

Any further break-down of the estimated impact of the degree of under occupation by region would be based upon information from a very small number of households for many of these combinations. This means that the figures would be likely to be unreliable.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the consistency between the definition of under-occupancy to be applied by his Department when determining housing benefit entitlement and the occupancy provisions of local authority and registered social landlord lettings policies. [44231]

Steve Webb: The provision to limit housing benefit payments for those of working age living in, social rented sector accommodation that is larger than their household requires will take effect from April 2013. To determine this we shall be using the size criteria that are currently used for this purpose of assessing housing benefit claims from the private rented sector. We are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Devolved Administrations and representatives from the housing sector as we develop the policy so that we can consider the practical implications.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the monetary value in 2010-11 prices of support for childcare costs provided to those claiming universal credit at the point at which universal credit is introduced. [44397]

Chris Grayling: We intend to match the same total amount of support as currently provided for child care costs when universal credit is fully rolled out.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the maximum marginal rate of withdrawal under universal credit will be for parents in receipt of assistance with childcare costs for *(a)* all claimants, *(b)* those previously in receipt of tax credits and *(c)* those claimants who also pay income tax. [44398]

Chris Grayling: The Government outlined a number of possible approaches for how they could provide support with the costs of child care in the White Paper 'Universal Credit: welfare that Works (Cm 7957)' and has been working with stakeholders to establish which options would best support parents. We will announce further details in the coming months, but the options we have discussed would not change the maximum marginal rate of withdrawal of universal credit.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent in Afghanistan through *(a)* the World Bank Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, *(b)* other multilateral institutions, *(c)* the Afghan government and *(d)* non-governmental organisations in the latest period for which figures are available. [42438]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In 2009-10, the Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme in Afghanistan provided £60.3 million through the World Bank's Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF); £8.5 million through other multilateral institutions; £14.4 million through Afghan Government systems in addition to ARTF spending; and £21.2 million through non-government organisations (NGOs).

DFID funds are also spent in Afghanistan through central funding to multilateral agencies and international NGOs. The UK's imputed share of expenditure by multilateral institutions in Afghanistan in 2009-10 will be published in "Statistics on International Development" in October. In 2008-09 this figure was £25.2 million. It is not possible to calculate the amount of UK aid spent in Afghanistan through our central funding to NGOs without incurring disproportionate cost.

Africa: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made an assessment of the potential contribution of smallholder farms to food security in Africa. [43549]

Mr O'Brien: The Government recognises the significant contribution that smallholder farm production can make to improving food security in Africa. We draw on assessments by international agencies such as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation and African regional organisations in planning how our interventions should address food security needs. For example, in Ethiopia, a DFID co-funded programme ensures that 8 million smallholders previously dependent on emergency aid are now food sufficient and can maintain their livelihoods. The Government is a strong supporter of Africa's own initiative, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The Programme's goal is to contribute to the elimination of hunger and reduce poverty and many of its activities involve helping smallholder farmers, both directly to help increase their productivity, and indirectly for example by improving their access to markets.

Departmental Manpower

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what senior civil service staff moves have taken place in his Department since May 2010; and which staff at what grade were involved in such moves. [42292]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since May 2010 twenty four Senior Civil Service staff moves have taken place in the Department for International Development (DFID). 17 of the moves were at Deputy Director level and seven of the moves were at Director level.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42379]

Mr Duncan: The number of actual and full-time equivalent staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID), as at 31 January 2011, is shown in the following table:

	Actual	*Full-time equivalent*
UK Home Civil Servants	1,767	1705.6
Staff Appointed in Country (staff engaged locally overseas on local terms and conditions to support our development activities overseas)	770	767.7
Total	2,537	2473.3

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible. [43539]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Departmental Official Cars

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Ministerial cars his Department has used since May 2010. [43027]

Mr Duncan: On taking up office all three Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers were given the use of a dedicated Government Car Service (GCS) car and driver. Following the publication of the 2010 Ministerial Code in May Minsters agreed that only Cabinet Ministers would have the use of their own car, and that all other Government Minsters should use a car from the GCS pool. DFID immediately took steps to terminate our existing GCS contract, which contained a three month notice period. From 4 September 2010 the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I have used a car from the GCS pool, and the Secretary of State has used a dedicated GCS car and driver.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the cost of redundancy accruing to his Department in each of the next five financial years. [42290]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is in the process of working through the exact implications of the full Spending Review 2010 settlement. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate redundancy costs for each of the next five financial years.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what provision was made for meeting the costs of redundancies in his Department's Spending Review 2010 settlement letter. [42291]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All pressures on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) budget were taken into account as part of the Spending Review and the settlement allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within DFID's Spending Review resource DEL settlement.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons persons not employed by Government departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43205]

Mr Duncan: Passes may be issued to individuals where there is an identified business need for them to make frequent visits to Department for International Development (DFID) premises, subject to the usual security checks. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide details of individuals who hold such passes.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department are employed on fixed-term contracts; and what their job titles are. [42884]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As at 31 January 2011, the Department for International Development (DFID) employs 26 fixed-term staff in the following roles.

Job title	*Number of staff*
Administrator	11
Adviser	4
Director	1
Executive Assistant	1
Governance Adviser	1
Head of Department	2
Head of Profession	2
Health Adviser	1
Senior Governance Adviser	1
Social Development Adviser	1
Statistics Adviser	1
Total	26

No new fixed-term contracts have been issued since May 2010 except for business critical roles.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the most recent previous employment was of senior staff who entered employment with his Department on fixed-term contracts since May 2010. [42885]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no Senior Civil Servants who entered employment on fixed term contracts since May 2010.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43316]

Mr Duncan: Mitie Facilities Management provide the catering services for both the Department for International Development's (DFID's) offices in London and East Kilbride as part of a three year facilities management and catering contract which commenced on 1st January 2011. Mitie are continually working with their suppliers to highlight the products which fall under the British standard or equivalent category.

Mitie currently supplies DFID with 36% of their products which are assured to meet British or equivalent standards, as a percentage of their total food spend. They are currently working towards having our entire milk spend under the Red Tractor food assurance scheme (currently 80%) and to have all eggs British Lion marked.

Libya: Asylum

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation of refugees from Libya. [44142]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government is extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Libya itself and at the borders. UK humanitarian and stabilisation staff have been sent to the Libyan borders with Egypt and Tunisia to assess and monitor the humanitarian situation on the ground. We are also in close and constant contact with international organisations and other humanitarian response agencies to monitor the situation and respond to it as it evolves. I have spoken personally to the heads of a number of agencies to discuss the situation and the international response, including: the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Chairman of the African Union, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, USAID, the World Food Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Islamic Relief and Save the Children.

Libya: Overseas Aid

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance he plans to provide to Libya in response to the recent unrest in that country. [44145]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government is extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Libya itself and at the borders. UK humanitarian and stabilisation staff have been sent to the Libyan borders with Egypt and Tunisia to assess the humanitarian situation and coordinate with other agencies on the ground. On 1 March DFID flew in 36,000 blankets and tents to shelter 1,500 people to the Tunisia border at the request of the United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR). The UK Government has also provided three planes on rotation to repatriate several thousand people stranded at the Tunisian/Libyan border. At 10:30 on 4 March, 3,135 people had been flown on UK funded aircraft from the Tunisia border with Libya to Egypt. We are also working closely with non-governmental organisations and other international organisations such as UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM). We are proactively monitoring the evolving situation through our field teams on the ground and partner agencies and I am visiting the region for myself to make my own assessment. We stand ready to provide resources to prevent this becoming a more severe humanitarian crisis.

Overseas Aid: Education

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking with his international counterparts to raise the external financing required for the Education for All Fast Track initiative. [42411]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) announced in March 2010 that we would make up to £100 million available to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI), conditional on pledges from other donors at a ratio of 5:1. Under this arrangement DFID will release £1 of our pledge for every £5 that FTI raises from elsewhere. We have worked closely with other donors to promote this pledge, which has already helped FTI to raise around £150 million from others.

Ahead of FTI's planned replenishment later this year, we will continue to work closely with other donors and FTI to strongly encourage predictable, multi-year commitments.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to support the replenishment of the Education for All Fast Track initiative to deliver sustainable funding for education in low-income countries. [42743]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed up to £100 million to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI), conditional on pledges from other donors at a ratio of 5:1. Under this arrangement DFID will release £1 of our pledge for every £5 that FTI raises from elsewhere. We have worked closely with other donors to promote this pledge, which has already helped FTI to raise around £150 million from others.

Ahead of FTI's planned replenishment later this year, we will continue to work closely with other donors and FTI to strongly encourage predictable, multi-year commitments.

The level of future UK funding for FTI will be agreed prior to the replenishment event and will reflect the outcome of the Multilateral Aid Review assessments, published on 1 March.

Sudan: Humanitarian Situation

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Abyei region of Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [42917]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK remains concerned about the humanitarian situation in the disputed border region of Abyei. This is an already underdeveloped area, and the United Nations' Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that between October 2010 and mid-February 2011, 37,727 registered returnees have arrived in Abyei, Through our contribution to the emergency reserve of the UN-managed Common Humanitarian Fund, the UK has supported the delivery of a basic three month package of shelter and non-food items to people in Abyei and in Southern Sudan who have decided to migrate from North to South Sudan because of the referendum on Southern secession.

We also continue to support President Mbeki's efforts to negotiate agreement on the status of Abyei and urge all parties to reach a resolution within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether (a) he and (b) Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the Big Society initiative. [42654]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has long recognised the value of volunteering and the vital contribution made by volunteers to development, and to local communities and charities. DFID currently supports VSO, the UK's leading volunteering agency, with a strategic grant worth £89 million (2008-2011). This is currently being renewed for a further three years. DFID's ministerial team is strongly committed to the Big Society initiative and the coalition Government is setting up International Citizens Service. This is a volunteering scheme, to give thousands of young adults across the UK the opportunity to travel to developing countries to join the fight against poverty.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the letter of 24 January 2011 from Elizabeth Cooke Szewczyke, a constituent of the hon. Member for Tottenham. [43052]

Robert Neill: A reply was sent to Elizabeth Cooke Szewczyke on 28 February 2011.

Legal Opinion

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 52W, on legal opinion, if he will place in the Library a copy of the purchase ledger; in respect of how many cases expenditure on legal fees was incurred; what proportion of the expenditure on legal fees was allocated to advice in respect of potential defamation cases since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [32778]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* A copy of the purchasing records pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 52W has been deposited in the Library of the House.

A further breakdown of the details of expenditure on legal fees could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

It is a long-standing practice across government that departments do not disclose their legal advice, or sometimes even comment on whether it was taken on a particular subject (if to do so would reveal privileged information). Disclosure of advice, even of the gist of advice, would break the long-established confidentiality that exists between the department and its legal advisers.

This is based on the well established principles of Legal Professional Privilege and also ensures that departments can rely on that privilege should there be any subsequent proceedings. The previous administration continued this practice following the Freedom of Information Act and the principles have been upheld in case-law by the Information Commissioner and the Information Tribunal.

Notwithstanding, I wish to use this opportunity to put on record a short comment, pursuant to my answer to the hon. Member of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 937W, no expenditure has been undertaken on legal fees on potential defamation cases relating in any way to that whole topic.

Local Government: Redundancy Pay

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the level of provision made by local authorities from the transitional grants for redundancy payments. [44232]

Robert Neill: Work force redundancy decisions and payments in local government are a matter for individual local council employers within discretionary powers provided by the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. Information is not collected centrally about discretionary payments made by local authorities under these provisions.

Regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 835W, on regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne, when he expects to receive the Homes and Communities Agency's financial and technical assessment of the proposals for the Byker estate. [43328]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency has provided a financial assessment of the Byker transfer proposals to the Department for consideration. The Homes and Community Agency is continuing its detailed technical assessment of the Byker transfer proposals. This will include an appraisal of the offer document that will be presented to tenants. We expect to receive the technical assessment in due course.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what countries have provided direct heavy lift and transport support to British forces in Afghanistan. [41677]

Peter Luff: It is not possible to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost. UK Forces operate in Afghanistan as part of a wider NATO effort and assets are assigned based on task not nationality. Accordingly, the UK will routinely make use of other nations' assets and vice versa. However, since December 2010, this has included UK troops in theatre utilising heavy lift assets including aircraft, trucks and cranes belonging to Denmark, Slovakia and the United States.

Air Force: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he has put in place to assist those who are to be made redundant from the RAF as part of the redundancy programme announced on 1 March 2011 in their transition to civilian life. [44394]

Mr Robathan: All Service personnel selected for redundancy will qualify for resettlement support from the RAF, as if they had completed their commission or engagement. This includes a resettlement grant and training to enhance skills and gain qualifications to improve employment opportunities.

Details of RAF personnel selected for redundancy under Tranche one of the RAF Redundancy Programme will not be known until 1 September 2011.

Air Force: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will assess the merits of providing support to allow Royal Air Force trainee pilots who lose their commissions as a result of reductions in public expenditure to become commercial airline pilots; and if he will make a statement; [43135]

(2) when his Department took the decision to end the commissions of 100 Royal Air Force trainee pilots; and if he will make a statement; [43137]

(3) what support he plans to provide to Royal Air Force trainee pilots who lose their commissions as a result of reductions in public expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [43134]

Mr Robathan: As part of the strategic defence and security review, it was announced that there would be a reduction in the number of airframes the RAF would be operating in future. This included the early withdrawal from service of the Harrier fleet, a reduction in the number of Tornado aircraft and the cancellation of the Nimrod MRA4. As a result of these decisions, the RAF's requirement for future trained pilots has now reduced. In addition, there has been a reassessment of the required number of helicopter pilots due to there being fewer service leavers and the limited capacity of operational conversion units.

Accordingly, RAF trainee pilots were informed on 15 February 2011 of a decision to remove up to 170 student RAF pilots from the flying training pipeline. They are currently being briefed on the personal implications in one-to-one discussions. Those RAF trainee pilots who are removed from the flying training pipeline will be considered for potential re-selection for other ground based appointments. Those that are not successful will be put forward for redundancy and will receive support from the RAF by way of resettlement packages.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of minimum payment guarantees for each independent treatment centre in each year since 2003. [43082]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not make minimum payment guarantees to independent treatment centres and therefore does not incur this cost.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of medical operations on armed services personnel performed by each independent treatment centre in each year since 2003. [43083]

Mr Robathan: Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTC) are free-standing surgical units which focus mainly on providing services for NHS patients.

There can be circumstances where a requirement exists to 'fast-track' the provision of care for service personnel so that they can be returned to fitness for task as quickly as possible, particularly in orthopaedic care for certain conditions.

This is achieved through a network of secondary care providers which includes NHS Trusts and the independent sector through individual Ministry of Defence contracts with these providers, which are completely separate to the NHS contractual relationships with ISTCs. As the MOD does not contract directly with ISTCs, it does not incur costs of this nature for medical operations on service personnel.

Armed Forces: Beds

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many new *(a)* beds and *(b)* mattresses were purchased for use by each member of the armed forces in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of such purchases in each such year; [42918]

(2) what the average cost of providing a *(a)* bed and *(b)* mattress was for each member of the armed forces (i) based in Britain, (ii) serving in Afghanistan and (iii) serving in another country in the latest period for which figures are available; [42919]

(3) how long a *(a)* bed and *(b)* mattress is issued for use by members of the armed forces before it is due to be replaced. [42920]

Mr Robathan: There is no business requirement to hold centrally details of the numbers and costs of beds and mattresses used by each member of the armed forces, or to monitor where they are located; this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, details of all new beds and mattresses purchased for use by the armed forces in the UK, Afghanistan and other overseas locations, as well as those not yet issued for use, are contained in the following table:

		FY	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Beds (for armed forces in the UK, Afghanistan and other overseas locations)			
Number purchased	9,588	13,543	13,103
Costs (excl VAT) (£ million)	1.98	2.21	1.52
Average cost (£)			116.01
Mattresses(for Armed Forces in the UK, Afghanistan and other overseas locations)			
Number purchased	41,888	61,716	45,198
Costs (excl VAT) (£ million)	1.83	1.95	2.46
Average cost (£)			54.43

There is no specific time period for replacing used bed frames and mattresses as this will depend on the level of wear and tear.

Armed Forces: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what proportion of service family accommodation he expects energy efficiency measures to be installed through the Green Deal. [43039]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is committed to improving the energy efficiency of all its property holdings, and is currently monitoring the consultation process in order to establish how the Green Deal may apply to service family accommodation.

Defence: Finance

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for spending by his Department in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15 on *(a)* sensors and *(b)* nanotechnology. [43941]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review made clear that we will continue the most essential investment in science and technology, which will include focusing investment on developing capabilities in key areas, such as, sensors and nanotechnology. The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in spring 2011, but as I have said previously in the answer I gave on 8 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 14, to the right hon. Member for North East Hampshire (Mr Arbuthnot) we expect the science and technology budget to rise slightly in cash terms over the comprehensive spending review period.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42625]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry Of Defence (MOD) informed its acquisition and human resource staff of the announcement of the introduction of the Principles of Good Employment Practice in December 2010. Since the beginning of the New Year, the Department has focused attention on implementing those principles most relevant to its role as a commissioner for service provision. It is too early to judge the adherence to each of the principles. It is intended that the Public Services Forum (PSF) assess the impact of these principles on good employment practices in the delivery of contracted out services in January 2012. The MOD will assist the Cabinet Office and PSF with that review.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43323]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has two primary contracts for feeding service personnel; the first is a pay as you dine/catering retail and leisure (PAYD/CRL) arrangement covering most armed forces personnel 'in barracks'. The second is a single food supply contract (FSC) for armed forces personnel serving on operations, exercises, submarines and ships worldwide as well as the remainder of armed forces personnel 'in barracks'. All food purchased under these arrangements already meets or exceeds EU quality standards.

The MOD is in regular contact with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on food production standards and has provided comments as part of the consultation phase on the proposed Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food and catering. I can confirm that the MOD is committed to supporting the coalition agreement on introducing GBS for food and catering within the constraints of EU procurement directives, operational feeding requirements and ensuring the product is fit for purpose.

HMS Victory

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to retain sovereign immunity for the wreck of HMS Victory 1744. [43741]

Mr Robathan: State vessels such as HMS VICTORY 1744 continue to enjoy sovereign immunity after sinking, unless the flag State has expressly relinquished its rights. Her Majesty's Government has not done so.

Plans for the future management of the wreck have been subject to public consultation; the report prepared by the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will be published shortly.

Military Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many missions involving *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado aircraft have been flown in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [43136]

(2) what the cost was of ground support crew for the *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado aircraft fleet in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [43138]

(3) how many crashes there have been involving *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado aircraft in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [43139]

(4) how many and what proportion of missions have been cancelled as a result of mechanical or software failure of *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado aircraft in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [43140]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 989W, to the hon. Member for New Forest East (Dr Lewis).

The total number of sorties flown by Harrier GR7/9 aircraft for financial year 2006-07 to financial year 2010-11 (to out of service date) is contained in the following table:

Financial Year	*Harrier GR7/9 total sorties flown*
2006-07	7,963
2007-08	6,978
2008-09	6,800
2009-10	5,968
2010-11 to 15 December 2010	3,431

The total number of sorties flown in each of the last five years involving Tornado GR4 and Tornado F3 aircraft is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We do however hold the total number of flying hours flown by each fleet for financial year 2006-07 to financial year 2010-11 (to end February 2011). These are contained in the following table:

Financial Year	*Tornado QR4 total flying hours*	*Tornado F3 total flying hours*
2006-07	31,102	15,593
2007-08	27,315	12,810
2008-09	22,249	7,334
2009-10	22,235	2,831
2010-11 (to end February 2011)	22,912	2,041

An average sortie length for Tornado GR4 is currently around one hour 45 minutes and for Tornado F3 is currently around one hour 30 minutes.

Information on the impact of aircraft unserviceability on planned sorties and costs of ground support crews is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There have been nine Tornado and eight Harrier accidents during the last 10 years (since 1 March 2001) involving death, major injury, significant damage or total loss of the aircraft. These figures exclude the Tornado incident at RAF Lossiemouth on 10 February 2011 as the damage to this aircraft has not yet been categorised.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the 170 trainee pilots to be made redundant in the programme announced on 1 March 2011 fly *(a)* fast jets, *(b)* multi-engine aircraft and *(c)* helicopters; [44392]

(2) how many of the 344 trainee pilots who are to continue their training fly *(a)* fast jets, *(b)* multi-engine aircraft and *(c)* helicopters. [44440]

Peter Luff: No RAF trainee pilots have been selected for redundancy at this stage. The RAF is currently in the process of selecting up to 170 RAF trainee pilots to be removed from the flying training pipeline. This will be completed and the individuals informed by mid March. Those who will be removed from flying training will undergo a further selection process for possible transfer to ground based branches within the RAF. Those who are unsuccessful will then be considered for redundancy by the redundancy selection board which sits at the end of May this year. Until this process is complete we cannot announce any further details.

Military Bases

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the review of army bases. [43033]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Ministry of Defence is addressing the full range of issues affecting the future basing requirements for all three services, arising from the strategic defence and security review. This work will deliver a long-term, cost effective solution to enable the delivery of operational capability and provide value for money for the taxpayer. The complexity of the work means that it will necessarily take some time, but there will be an announcement before the summer recess.

Navy: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the civil nuclear industry on the role of Royal Navy nuclear personnel in providing training to the industry; and if he will make a statement. [43141]

Mr Robathan: There have been no discussions with the civil nuclear industry regarding the provision of training by Royal Navy personnel.

Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [43185]

Peter Luff: The costs of UK military activity in financial years 2004-05 to 2009-10 for Northern Ireland are provided in the following table. Information for financial years 2001-02 to 2003-04 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	284
2005-06	281
2006-07	128
2007-08	89
2008-09	79
2009-10	90

Notes:

1. Figures include costs associated with pay for locally employed civilians and Territorial Army, utilities, white fleet vehicle leasing and fuel. The figures do not include costs associated with military equipment, military personnel pay, or IT and communications.

2. Figures from 2005-06 onwards do not include estate works and maintenance.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he has taken of his assessment of the threat of State-on-State nuclear warfare in *(a)* implementing commitments under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and *(b)* discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. [43071]

Mr Robathan: In the October 2010 strategic defence and security review (SDSR) the Government assessed that while no state currently has both the intent and the capability to threaten the independence or integrity of the UK, we cannot dismiss the possibility that a major direct nuclear threat to the UK might re-emerge.

The Government are committed to fulfilling its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons. We therefore continue to work closely with partners from across the international community to progress realistic and balanced action to strengthen each of the NPT's three pillars (non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy). We will continue to work to create a safer and more stable world where all nations are able to relinquish their nuclear weapons.

The Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), has regular exchanges with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) and other ministerial colleagues on a wide range of Defence security issues, including nuclear and NPT related issues.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to review the (a) scale and (b) capacity of the planned new warhead assembly and disassembly facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield against the conclusions of the Strategic Defence and Security Review in respect of the UK's future stock of nuclear weapons. [43351]

Mr Robathan: The scale and capacity of the planned replacement assembly/disassembly facility at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield has been reviewed to take account of the decisions announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review in respect of the UK's future stock of nuclear weapons.

This review has confirmed that the proposed design remains the minimum required, in terms of scale and capacity, to meet the UK's deterrent programme.

Pigmeat

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* pork and *(b)* bacon for use by service personnel on duty in the UK was procured from UK sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [43191]

Mr Robathan: Armed forces personnel are primarily catered for through outsourced Catering, Retail and Leisure (CRL) contracts which are being introduced across the UK Defence estate, Germany and Cyprus. Some 65% of armed forces personnel are catered for under these arrangements. The balance of our forces in UK and those serving on operations are catered for under a single Food Supply Contract (FSC).

The third (and most recent) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs report on the proportion of domestically produced food procured by government, covering 2008-09, showed that 1% of bacon and 47% of other pork products provided under CRL arrangements was British. The corresponding figures for personnel fed under the FSC were 0% of bacon and 100% of other pork products.

EDUCATION

Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which unit of his Department is responsible for schools seeking to convert to academy status. [38426]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* The Academies Delivery Group within the Infrastructure and Funding Directorate is responsible for schools seeking to convert to academy status.

Academies: Teachers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what minimum qualifications are required of teachers in academy schools. [21617]

Mr Gibb: Requirements for teaching staff qualifications are set out in each Academy's Funding Agreement. Anyone who carries out 'specified work' (the teaching and planning of lessons) within an Academy must have Qualified Teacher Status or be 'otherwise eligible' to do specified work. This includes someone teaching a particular vocational skill who is not a qualified teacher in the traditional sense, but has relevant qualifications and experience. Individual Academy Governing Bodies will need to be satisfied that the qualifications and experience are relevant and appropriate to the post.

Teachers employed in Free Schools, which are also classed as Academies, are not required to hold Qualified Teacher Status.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral answer from the Deputy Prime Minister of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 341, when he expects to make arrangements to meet hon. Members from Gateshead Borough to discuss the future of schools in Gateshead following changes to the Building Schools for the Future programme. [17947]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend, met with the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns) and the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr Anderson) on 15 December 2010.

Children's Centres: Operating Costs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the average administration costs of Sure Start children centres nationally. [40790]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* The Department for Education does not currently collect data on the administration costs of Sure Start Children's Centres nationally. The National Audit Office (NAO) provided analysis of children's centres administration costs to the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee in December 2009—it is available from the NAO website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0910/sure_start_childrens_centres.aspx

We have consulted on changes to data which local authorities are required to report on their expenditure on children's services. From 2011-12, local authority expenditure on Sure Start Children's Centres will be published, including how much funding is held back for local authority central administration costs, and how much is spent on front line services.

College of Social Work

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Social Care Institute for Excellence will have a role in the running of the College of Social Work. [35709]

Tim Loughton: In 2009 the Social Work Task Force recommended the establishment of an independent College of Social Work to articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession itself strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of professional social work standards.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has been asked to facilitate the establishment of the College of Social Work, providing administrative support and expertise in a developmental phase of two years. Neither Government nor SCIE seek to influence the form or function of the emerging college. SCIE will have no role in the governance of the college that emerges.

Departmental Correspondence

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department expects to reply to the letter sent by Mr Brian Gates, Chair of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, dated 29 November 2010, on religious education and the national curriculum review. [35362]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* I responded to the letter from Professor Gates on 21 December .2010.

Early Intervention Grant

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what equality impact assessments his Department carried out in respect of the *(a)* establishment of and *(b)* funding allocated to the Early Intervention Grant; [32877]

(2) what recent representations he has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* trade unions on the establishment and funding of the Early Intervention Grant. [32880]

Sarah Teather: The Early Intervention Grant and funding arrangements for it were established as part of the comprehensive spending review. as part of the spending review process, my Department considered carefully the equality implications of proposed changes to the funding it provides to local authorities.

The Government are freeing local authorities to focus on essential frontline services, and to invest in early intervention and prevention to produce long-term savings and better results for children, young people and families. A key element of this approach has been the creation of the Early Intervention Grant for local authorities in England. In a tight funding settlement, some reduction in central government support was inevitable. The grant will however provide a substantial funding stream, with new flexibility to enable local authorities to act more strategically and target investment early, where it will have the greatest impact.

Against the background of greater flexibility to decide priorities locally, there are key areas of early intervention where the Government have prioritised investment in the overall grant:

to maintain the existing network of Sure Start Children's Centres—accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need;

to enable local authorities to build capacity towards our planned extension of free early education with an entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds from 2013 (subject to the will of Parliament); and

to provide respite to the most vulnerable families through provision of short breaks for disabled children.

When deciding the formula used for allocating the grant to local authorities we considered the equalities impact and for that reason selected an approach which is weighted to relative levels of social deprivation, given that families with disabled children and those from a number of other disadvantaged groups are over-represented in deprived areas. We have therefore created the conditions for local authorities themselves to consider locally where to invest to get the best outcomes, especially for the most disadvantaged groups.

The Department has a range of formal and informal contact and discussions with local government and trade unions, which cover many issues including funding.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Torbay

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people have received education maintenance allowance in Torbay local authority area since the scheme's inception. [35563]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Torbay with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 25 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ35563 that asked:

"How many people have received education maintenance allowance in Torbay local authority area since the scheme's inception."

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for the Torbay local authority area

Academic year	*Take-up*
2004-05	765
2005-06	1,377
2006-07	1,648
2007-08	1,807
2008-09	1,860
2009-10	2,174
2010[1]	1,991

[1] as at 31 December 2010

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education: Research

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities participated in the National Foundation for Education Research study barriers to participation in education and training. [39127]

Mr Gibb: The local authorities that participated in the National Foundation for Educational Research study on Barriers to Participation in Education and Training have not been identified in the published report.

The report states that six local authorities took part in the study, which were selected to be broadly representative in terms of type of authority, rural/urban authority, level of deprivation and the proportion of young people who were not in education, employment or training.

English Baccalaureate

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to include music and religious education in his proposals for humanities GCSE options in an English baccalaureate. [39116]

Mr Gibb: We are concerned that the number of pupils, especially those in disadvantaged areas, who receive a broad education in core academic subjects is far too small. We want to encourage more pupils to take these core subjects and to bring about greater fairness of opportunity.

The English Baccalaureate does not include all the subjects we think are worthy of study. We recognise that study in other subjects will be just as valuable to pupils and we will encourage all pupils to study non-English Baccalaureate subjects alongside the English Baccalaureate in order to benefit from a well rounded education. This is why we have kept the number of core subjects small enough to allow wider study. Subjects, such as religious studies and music which do not count towards the English Baccalaureate, can and will play a part in a well rounded, rigorous education.

Achievement in these subjects, as with all GCSEs, will continue to be recognised in the performance tables as part of the A*-C measure and the teaching of religious education remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of long-term trends in *(a)* availability of and *(b)* participation in extra curricular activities in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [35800]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect data on the availability of and participation in extra curricular activities. However, the Department for Education's Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents for 2009, published in October 2010, does give an indication of the proportion of children participating in some extra curricular activities beyond the school. The survey entailed interviews with a sample of just over 6,700 parents with children aged under 15. One-third of the sample of families used a breakfast or after-school club on a school site and 7% used a breakfast or after-school club off-site. Full details of the surveys can be found at:

http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PaqeMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR054

Free Schools: Rotherham

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the establishment of free schools in Rotherham; and from whom such representations have been received. [32048]

Mr Gibb: To date, the Department for Education has received two proposals for Free Schools in Rotherham. As part of their Free School proposal, the Three Valleys Independent Academy provided the Department with petitions and short standard statements from 423 supporters. In addition, representations have been received from the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (John Healey) regarding Three Valleys.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the number of higher education places for pupils of independent schools. [41670]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

Government policy is that access to Higher Education should be based on talent and potential, irrespective of background. Decisions about admission to university are a matter for individual universities, and not for Government. We have no policy view on the number of higher education places for pupils of independent schools.

Non-Mainstream Education

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were educated out of mainstream education in the latest period in which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [35878]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils attending non-mainstream schools and on those funded under alternative provision is shown in the table. Information is not collected on elective home education.

Non-mainstream schools: Number of pupils: As at January 2010—In England

	Number of pupils
Special schools[1, 2, 3]	90,760
Independent special schools[3, 4]	9,360
Pupil referral units[4, 5]	13,240
Alternative provision[3, 6]	22,510

[1] Includes maintained, non-maintained special schools and general hospital schools.

[2] Includes solely registered pupils. Excludes 2,470 dual main registered pupils and 1,670 dual subsidiary registered pupils.

[3] There may be an element of double-counting of local authority-funded pupils in non-maintained special schools and independent special schools as some pupils may also be included under alternative provision.

[4] Includes solely registered pupils.

[5] Includes boarding pupils and pupils registered in other providers and further education colleges. Excludes 2,310 dual main registered pupils and 8,360 dual subsidiary registered pupils.

[6] Includes sole and dual registered pupils.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 291W, on personal, social, health and economic education, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document held by his Department that relates to provisions of Clauses 11 to 14 of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 relating to sex and relationships education; and if he will make a statement. [36708]

Mr Gibb: I have placed in the House Libraries a copy of:

(i) the Review of Sex and Relationships (SRE) in Schools; and

(ii) the Independent Review of the proposal to make Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education statutory.

The Department does not release internal documents related to the formulation or development of Government policy.

Poverty and Life Chances Review

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances. [41436]

Sarah Teather: The Government welcomes the publication of the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) review. We are considering the review's findings in detail alongside the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen) first report on Early Intervention which was published on 19 January, and responses to the consultation "Tackling child poverty and improving life chances: consulting on a new approach" which closed on 15 February. We will be responding to the findings in the coming months through the forthcoming Social Mobility strategy, Child Poverty strategy, and Early Years Policy statement.

Child Poverty

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to reduce child poverty; and what financial resources it has allocated to those steps in each of the next four financial years. [33370]

Sarah Teather: The Government will publish their plans for ending child poverty by 2020 in their child poverty strategy. This will be published in the spring, as required by the Child Poverty Act. The strategy will show how we aim to eradicate the causes of poverty rather than simply treating the symptoms as the previous Government did. This will show how we intend to support social mobility, ensure life chances are fair, and break the cycle of poverty and deprivation.

Pre-School Education: Personnel

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of individuals of each gender working in early years care in the *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* voluntary or non-profit sector; [32878]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people working in early years care in the *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* voluntary or non-profit sector; [32879]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of levels of demand for child care in the 30% most deprived areas. [32881]

Sarah Teather: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2008 collected information on the gender of the childcare and early years workforce, but this information is not available by type of ownership (private, public and voluntary or non-profit sector) of the setting. Information on the gender of the childcare and early years workforce beyond 2008 will not be available until the publication of the 2010 survey.

Table 1 shows the proportion of staff of each gender in the childcare and early years workforce in England in 2008.

Table 1: Proportion of staff by gender

		Percentage
Type of setting	*Male*	*Female*
Full day care	2	98
Full day care in children's centres	2	98
Sessional	1	99
After school clubs	7	93
Holiday clubs	14	86
Childminders	2	98
Nursery schools	2	98
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	1	99
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	1	99

Base: Childcare providers 2008. Early years provision in maintained schools 2008.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2009 collected information on the number of paid staff working in sessional and full day care by type of ownership of the setting.

Table 2 shows the number of paid staff working in sessional and full day care by type of setting ownership in England in 2009.

Table 2: Number of paid staff by type of care and ownership of setting

	Private	*Voluntary*	*Local authority*	*Schooll college*	*Other*
Full daycare	124,700	26,300	7,700	9,300	5,000
Sessional	14,900	32,900	[1]1,1004	[1]1,200$	[2]—

Note:
All paid staff in settings 2009.
[1] Signifies a cell where data should be treated with caution due to a low base size.
[2] Signifies a cell where data has not been included due to a base of less than 50.

We are also aware from the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2009 that 6% of children aged between three and four years old attend breakfast, after-school clubs or activities. However, we are unable to estimate the numbers of staff working in settings providing holiday and after-school clubs that work with this small proportion of young children.

The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2009 collects information on the number of childcare and early years places and vacancies in the 30% most deprived areas.

Table 3 shows the number of childcare and early years places and vacancies in the 30% most deprived areas England in from 2006 to 2009. Table 3: Number of places and vacant places in the 30% most deprived areas 2006

	Places	*Vacancies*
2006	718,100	104,000
2007	735,500	134,700
2008	759,200	109,800
2009	680,200	101,500

Note:
Childcare providers in 30% most deprived areas 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006.
Early years provision in maintained schools in 30% most deprived areas 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006.

Table 4 shows the percentage change in the number of childcare and early years places and vacancies in the 30% most deprived areas from 2006 to 2009.

Table 4: Percentage change in the 30% most deprived areas

	Places	*Vacancies*
2006 to 2009	2	30
2006 to 2007	3	-18
2007 to 2008	-10	-8
2008 to 2009	-5	-2

Note:
Childcare providers in 30% most deprived areas 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006.
Early years provision in maintained schools in 30% most deprived areas 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006.

Religious Studies

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for future teaching of religious studies after its exclusion from the English Baccalaureate humanities list. [36030]

Mr Gibb: We consider religious education to be a very important subject and it will remain a compulsory part of the basic curriculum in maintained schools.

We have not included religious education (RE) as fulfilling the humanity requirement of the English Baccalaureate because it is already a compulsory subject. One of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE.

However we recognise, as many schools do, the benefits that religious education can bring to pupils. This is why the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. Success in all subjects studied at GCSE will also continue to be recognised by other performance table measures, as it has in the past. We are open to arguments about how we can further improve the measures in the performance tables and will review the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 tables.

School Leaving Age

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support he plans to provide to people aged 16 to 18 years in extending the participation age to 18 years. [37857]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to making sure that every young person remains in education or training until they are 18, giving them the opportunity to gain skills and qualifications that prepares them for Higher Education, work and adult life. The majority of 16 and 17-year-olds are already participating; latest figures show that 93.6% of 16-year-olds and 87.4% 17-year-olds were in education or work based learning at the end of 2009.

Over the current spending review period, 16-19 provision will be funded to allow schools and colleges to increase the number of places in education.

Schools will have responsibility for making sure that their students have access to independent, impartial careers guidance, to help them make decisions about the options that are open to them. Local authorities will continue to support young people who need more targeted support to overcome specific barriers to participation.

We know that some young people face genuine financial barriers to participation. We are currently considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in education.

Schools: Discipline

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to meet organisations representing young carers to discuss his proposal to remove the requirement for 24 hours' notice for detention in schools. [27654]

Mr Gibb: This matter was discussed at the Education Select Committee inquiry into behaviour, on 17 November 2010. I plan to meet with young carer organisations to discuss how schools can be more flexible and supportive in responding to young carer's needs.

Helping to care for a family member is something that many young people are happy and proud to do. These young people play an important role both for their families and society as a whole and they deserve our recognition and support. The Department for Education with the Department of Health is committed to supporting local services including many voluntary organisations which have been set up to support these young people.

Removing the requirement for 24 hours notice of detention will allow detentions to be issued for the end of the same day, enabling a more immediate response to poor behaviour. Schools must act reasonably when issuing detentions and it is common sense that they should carefully consider whether an after school or Saturday detention is appropriate for certain pupils, including those with caring responsibilities. The Government trust teachers to make decisions such as these.

The Department for Education and the Department of Health are already working with National Young Carers Coalition to raise awareness within schools about how to identify and support young carers. The Government have also recently published "Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy". It recognises that there are a number of 'hidden' young carers and encourages front-line services including schools, GPs, mental health and substance misuse to put in place systems to identify and respond to young carers needs.

Schools: Rugby and Football

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many secondary schools had school sports partnerships with links to professional rugby league clubs in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [35679]

(2) how many secondary schools had school sports partnerships with links to professional rugby union clubs in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [35680]

(3) how many secondary schools had school sports partnerships with links to professional football clubs in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [35681]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 January 2011]*: The most recent PE and sport survey showed that, in the school year 2009/10, 50% of schools reported that they had links with a rugby union club and 22% with a rugby league club, 79% of schools reported that they had links with a football club. There is no breakdown between primary and secondary schools. The Department published this information in September 2010.

Schools: Sanitation

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the use of outside lavatories in cold weather in junior and infant schools. [22639]

Mr Gibb: Individual local authorities and schools are responsible for deciding whether to retain outside toilets for pupils' use. A number of schools and local authorities have chosen to use the capital funding devolved directly to them to invest in the removal of outside toilets. However some schools made local decisions to retain their toilets for use during playtime and breaks.

Schools: Warwickshire

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the funds that will be available to schools in *(a)* Warwickshire, *(b)* North Warwickshire borough and *(c)* Nuneaton and Bedworth borough as a result of the pupil premium in each year to 2014-15. [37703]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 school census, pupil referral unit census and alternative provision census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the looked after child pupil premium for 2011-12 which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2010 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged 4 to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 local authority return. Each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The amounts allocated in 2011-12 will depend on the numbers of FSM and looked-after pupils recorded on the January 2011 censuses, so it is not possible to give precise figures for 2011 and subsequent years. We aim to extend the coverage of the pupil premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for free school meals. We intend to consult on this, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use, in the summer.

The January 2010 school censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM or to be looked-after children to be made. In Warwickshire in January 2010 there were 8,165 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £3,510,950. In addition to this there were 185 pupils known to be eligible for the service child premium, paid at a lower rate of £200 per pupil, which would give rise to a further £155,000. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed.

At borough level again the January 2010 school census allows an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. This does not include looked-after children or service children as data for these is not available at borough level. In North Warwickshire in January 2010 there were 1,110 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £477,300. In Nuneaton and Bedworth in January 2010 there were 2,580 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £1,109,400.

Sixth Form Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he had with *(a)* the Sixth Form College Forum, *(b)* the Association of Colleges and *(c)* other bodies representing post-16 education providers before making his decision to reduce the funding for entitlement to 30 funded learning hours. [34896]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The options for making savings on 16-19 participation unit costs were discussed in broad terms with the Sixth Form Colleges' Forum, the Association of Colleges and other bodies representing post-16 education through the Technical Advisory Group of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), and also with the Board of the YPLA. These discussions informed the decisions which were taken.

A range of savings options were considered in order to achieve the unit cost savings necessary, given the fiscal position we faced. The decision to reduce the funding for additional enrichment activities was taken after due consideration of whether it provided value for money for all full-time students compared to other options and in order to deliver the priorities for 16-19 education. These included our commitment to deliver on full participation, the need to protect the core programme equivalent to four A-levels, and the need to protect tutorial provision as far as possible. The savings from the entitlement also made it possible to increase the funding for 16 to 19-year-old disadvantaged students where we have increased funding by one-third to £770 million.

HEALTH

Audiology

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that a high quality audiology service will continue to be provided free at the point of delivery by GP commissioning consortia. [42837]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, general practitioner (GP) consortia will commission healthcare services (including audiology) that continue to be free at the point of use and based on need, not ability to pay. They will be supported by the NHS Commissioning Board, which will have a vital role in providing national leadership for driving up the quality of care across health commissioning. The board will do this by supporting GP consortia in a number of ways including publishing commissioning guidance and model care pathways, based on the evidence-based quality standards that it has asked National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop.

Contraception: Expenditure

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the provision of *(a)* the contraceptive pill, *(b)* emergency hormonal contraception, *(c)* condoms and *(d)* long-acting reversible contraception on the NHS in each of the last five years; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of each method in reducing the rate of (i) teenage pregnancy and (ii) sexually transmitted diseases in each year; and if he will make a statement. [43742]

Anne Milton: Information on expenditure for prescriptions for the contraceptive pill, emergency hormonal contraception and long-acting reversible contraception dispensed in the community in England is shown in the following table. This does not include contraception supplied by sexual and reproductive health services (previously called family planning clinics) or issued under patient group directions. Condoms are not prescription only medicine items, and are supplied by the national health service via other routes and are funded by primary care trusts.

A clinical guideline, "Long-acting reversible contraception: the effective and appropriate use of long-acting reversible contraception", published by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, found that by raising the profile of different methods of contraception particularly long acting reversible contraception and increasing contraceptive choice, the number of unintended pregnancies would fall. Contraception is the best way of avoiding unintended pregnancies and condoms are the best form of protection against a sexually transmitted infection.

Healthcare professionals should have regard to the latest evidence based and guidelines when considering effectiveness and which method will be best for an individual patient.

Net ingredient cost

£000

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Contraceptive Pill	49,556.4	53,255.2	57,222.5	61,057.9	59,702.7
Emergency Hormonal Contraception	1,945.9	2,210.0	1,892.3	1,727.0	1,621.9
Long-acting Reversible Contraception	14,472.4	15,840.4	17,995.0	20,583.7	24,175.8

Notes:

1. PCA Data

Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental-health trusts, or private prescriptions.

2. Prescribers are general practitioners, hospital doctors, dentists and non medical prescribers such as nurses and pharmacists.

3. Net Ingredient Cost (NIC)

NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

4. Long-acting Reversible Contraception includes Intra-Uterine Devices and Diaphragms. Patches and vaginal ring products have been excluded from the figures.

5. Although figures are published by the NHS Information Centre on the number of patients accessing these services, the cost of such provision is not collected.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis (NHS Information Centre).

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to provision of *(a)* the contraceptive pill, *(b)* emergency hormonal contraception, *(c)* condoms and *(d)* long-acting reversible contraception for people aged under 16 years in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [43743]

Anne Milton: The Department currently makes recurrent revenue allocations direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of a national weighted capitation formula which is used to determine each PCTs target share of available resources. The components of the formula are used to weight each PCTs population according to their relative need (age and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor).

PCT recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by policy or service area. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of both local and national priorities.

Between 2008-09 and 2010-11 the Department allocated £33,062,000 to strategic health authorities to improve access to and choice of contraception, for women of all age groups particularly young women, including those aged under 16.

Contraceptives: Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the pilot scheme to permit children on the Isle of Wight from the age of 13 years to obtain the contraceptive pill from pharmacies; what the evidential basis is for the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [43882]

Anne Milton: The Department has received representations about the Isle of Wight scheme but cannot provide a precise number as we do not index correspondence down to that level of detail.

The primary aim of the pilot scheme is to provide education and support to inform young people who are already sexually active about future contraceptive options and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. This service neither condones nor promotes sex at any age, but seeks to link those who have been sexually active with the appropriate supporting care pathway including safeguarding issues to ensure that, if appropriate, they are provided with a safe method of contraception for a limited period. The pilot scheme will be carefully monitored by Isle of Wight Primary Care Trust to ensure that performance, engagement and referral pathways are robust.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43537]

Mr Simon Burns: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps to enable the public to hold departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Epilepsy: Brighton and Hove

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the adequacy of provision of epilepsy specialist *(a)* nurses and *(b)* consultants in the Brighton and Hove area; and if he will make a statement. [43346]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of local health bodies to commission services to meet the needs of those living with epilepsy, including the provision of specialist nurses and consultants where appropriate.

The "National Service Framework for long-term conditions" is the key tool for delivering the Government's strategy to support and improve services for those living with long-term neurological conditions, including epilepsy.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43318]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials are currently in negotiation with the Department's caterers to extend the food procurement contract for all its buildings by 31 March 2011. This will reflect the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production.

General Practitioners

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 607W, on general practitioners, which provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill are intended to establish that GP commissioning consortia are to be statutory public bodies. [42888]

Mr Simon Burns: Clause 6 of the Health and Social Care Bill would establish, by statute, commissioning consortia as bodies corporate with the function of arranging for the provision of health services in England. Clause 21 outlines further provisions for the establishment of commissioning consortia and their duties as statutory public bodies.

Health

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget for Public Health England was in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [43074]

(2) what account the proposed arrangements for public health spending will take of the public health needs of deprived areas; and if he will make a statement; [43077]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the level of public expenditure on public health in the latest period for which figures are available; what effects the proposed reforms contained in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", will have on the level of public expenditure on public health; and if he will make a statement; [43081]

(4) if he will estimate the level of funding to be allocated to each local authority after the implementation of the reforms in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement; [43168]

(5) which local authority will be allocated the *(a)* largest and *(b)* smallest public health budget following the implementation of the proposals in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement. [43169]

Anne Milton: We are currently consulting on the functions and services to be funded through the public health budget and commissioning routes in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health. The responses to the consultation on functions and services will be important in helping determine the size of future public health budgets.

Early estimates suggest that total current spend in areas that are likely to be the responsibility of Public Health England could be over £4 billion. Building on the proposed commissioning responsibilities in the consultation document the Department is continuing work to establish baseline spend on activities that will be funded from the public health budget in future. This will be subject to revision as responses to the consultation on the responsibilities to be funded from the public health budget lead to revisions in the design of the service.

From April 2013, upper tier and unitary local authorities will receive a new ring-fenced public health grant, in order to improve the health of their local population. The size of the ring-fenced grant will be based on relative population health need and weighted for inequalities. Apart from mandatory services, it will be for local authorities to determine how best to invest this funding to meet local priorities. We are consulting on the approach to developing the allocations, and it is therefore too early to say how much will be allocated to each local authority. Shadow allocations for the ring-fenced grant to local authorities will be issued by the end of 2011.

During 2010-11 and 2011-12, primary care trust (PCT) allocations are not broken down into sums for individual policy streams, and it is for PCTs to decide how much to spend in line with the requirements of the NHS Operating Framework.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the budget for vaccination and immunisation following the implementation of the proposals in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement; [43078]

(2) what estimate he has made of the budget to be allocated to children's health following the implementation of the proposals in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement; [43166]

(3) what the planned budget is for *(a)* health visiting, *(b)* nursing and midwifery and *(c)* fertility and embryology following the publication of the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement. [43294]

Anne Milton: We are currently consulting on the functions and services to be funded through the public health budget and commissioning routes in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health. The responses to the consultation on functions and services will be important in helping determine the size of future public health budgets.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training and support he plans to make available to maintain adequate public health expertise; and if he will make a statement. [43079]

Anne Milton: In the public health White Paper "Healthy Lives Healthy People", it was announced that a detailed workforce strategy to support public health is to be developed by autumn 2011, working with representative organisations. Informed by the views of people on the frontline of public health delivery it will set out how a supply of highly trained and motivated staff, with the appropriate skills for understanding the range of public health interventions, providing public health advice and commissioning the services communities require, can be sustained and grown, as needed.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the accountability of local authorities for achieving public health outcomes under his proposals contained in the public health White Paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"; and if he will make a statement. [43080]

Anne Milton: Based on the principles of transparency and localism, local people and communities will hold their local authorities to account for the delivery of improved outcomes for health and well-being.

We are currently consulting on proposals for an outcomes framework for public health and will publish a final framework in the summer of this year. In due course Public Health England will publish information relating to outcomes available in one place enabling national and local democratic accountability for performance against those outcomes. Our aim is to make it easy for local areas to compare themselves with others across the country and thereby to incentivise improvements.

The proposed health premium will reward local authorities retrospectively for progress made against a sub-set of the public health indicators. We are currently consulting on the plans for the health premium.

Health Professions

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 965W, on healthcare science, when he expects to take a decision on his policy on the regulation of the healthcare science workforce; and what interim arrangements will be put in place until such a decision is made. [43164]

Anne Milton: The Command Paper "Enabling Excellence" laid before Parliament on 16 February 2011 sets out the Government's overall strategy for the regulation of health care workers in the United Kingdom and social workers and social care workers in England. It makes clear that the extension of statutory regulation to currently unregulated professional or occupational groups, such as the health care science workforce, will only be considered where there is a compelling case on the basis of a public safety risk and where assured voluntary registers are not considered sufficient to manage this risk.

A decision on the appropriate model of regulation for the health care science workforce will be made following completion of the robust evidence-based cost-benefit risk analysis.

Departmental officials will be working with relevant professional bodies to establish interim arrangements.

Health Services

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent changes to staffing levels at the Health Protection Agency on its ability to complete its programme on health economic modelling. [43433]

Anne Milton: Detailed staffing levels are a matter for the Chief Executive and Board of the Health Protection Agency.

Hip Replacements: Waiting Lists

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for a hip replacement operation in *(a)* Birmingham, Ladywood constituency, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* England in each of the last 15 years. [43112]

Mr Simon Burns: The median time waited, in days, for hip replacement procedures, is shown in the following table. The data are not held at constituency level, therefore data have been provided for Heart of Birmingham Primary Care Trust (PCT), the closest to Ladywood constituency.

Median time waited for hip replacement procedures

Days

	Heart of Birmingham PCT	*Birmingham*	*England*
2009-10	90	80	77
2008-09	61	71	75
2007-08	87	101	107
2006-07	102	123	148
2005-06	119	113	158
2004-05	132	116	182
2003-04	132	126	217
2002-03	141	128	229
2001-02	117	108	220
2000-01	106	112	212
1999-2000	122	121	198
1998-99	177	177	198
1997-98	168	162	181
1996-97	139	162	162
1995-96	[1]—	[1]—	157

[1] PCT data not available prior to 1996-97.

Notes:

1. Heart of Birmingham PCT data are provided as a proxy for Ladywood constituency.
2. Birmingham data comprises data for Heart of Birmingham PCT; South Birmingham PCT; and Birmingham East and North PCT. Prior to 2006-07, Birmingham East and North PCT was made up of Eastern Birmingham PCT and North Birmingham PCT.
3. PCT level data are not available prior to 1996-97 therefore data for 1995-96 is provided at national level only.
4. The data include activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Radio

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future support of hospital radio by the NHS *(a)* during and *(b)* after the proposed reorganisation of the NHS. [43101]

Mr Simon Burns: Hospital radio stations have provided an invaluable service to patients for many years. It is for each national health service trust to determine the provision of hospital radio services within its area.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Government's response to "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple services", what additional funding his Department plans to make available for implementation of recommendation 12 on providing protection of body shape. [42752]

Paul Burstow: The Government have not made funding available for specific recommendations. National health service bodies should be ensuring services meet the needs of all patients, including those with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Health and Social Care Bill will translate duty onto local authorities and general practitioner (GP) consortia and place them under a new duty to agree a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This is a new requirement through which the partners at the Health and Wellbeing Board have to agree a shared strategy for commissioning, which will have regard to their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Annual GP health checks for people with learning disabilities are also a local way of ensuring all individuals with learning disabilities can access the right interventions for their health and well being.

Maternity Services

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of guidance issued by his Department on the creation of maternity networks; [41618]

(2) what the *(a)* legal status, *(b)* responsibilities and *(c)* powers of maternity networks will be under his proposals; [41619]

(3) whether each provider of maternity cover to the NHS will be required to belong to a maternity network; [41620]

(4) what mechanisms maternity networks will use to provide choice for women using maternity services. [41626]

Anne Milton: In the White Paper "Excellence and Equity: Liberating the NHS", (which has already been placed in the Library) we made a commitment to extend maternity choice through maternity provider networks. Our vision is that provider networks will cover all the maternity services a mother may need throughout pregnancy, birth and postnatally, including arrangements to access services that may not be available locally, ensuring that the transitions between individual carers or organisations are as seamless as possible.

The White Paper set out how we will empower and liberate healthcare professionals to innovate, with the freedom to focus on improving healthcare services with greater autonomy from political interference and greater accountability to patients and the public. Service changes must be led by clinicians, patients, and users; and not driven from the top down.

"Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps" (which has already been placed in the Library), proposes a distinctive approach to commissioning maternity services, that reflects the special nature and circumstances of maternity services, locating responsibility for commissioning maternity services with GP consortia, with the NHS Commissioning Board giving a particular focus to quality improvement and extending choice for pregnant women, and supporting consortia to work collaboratively to commission services.

Officials met with maternity and newborn professional and user organisations and commissioning organisations on 3 February 2010 to begin work to explore how best to support the development of these new arrangements, including the role of networks in this context. This work will draw on existing experience, including from areas with networks already in place, with structures varying from formal managed networks to informal networks. We expect commissioners and providers to build on these, and we anticipate that all maternity providers will want to benefit from network relationships that will enable them to extend choice and provide a seamless service for pregnant women and their families. Networks may look different in different geographical areas as they seek to meet local needs and circumstances. It will be for the providers to agree network arrangements and any support or management structures that they might want to adopt, and to identify how these could be resourced including any efficiency gains that might cover the costs.

There will be opportunities for developing networks to link with general practitioner consortia pathfinders and Health and Wellbeing early implementers to ensure their arrangements work well for women and their families.

Medical Equipment: Counterfeit Manufacturing

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 267W, on medical equipment: counterfeit manufacturing, what recent steps the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has taken as part of its investigations into the use of counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [43413]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a medical device alert to all national health service trusts warning them that counterfeit pulse oximeter sensors are being placed on the United Kingdom market and asking them to report any confirmed counterfeit devices to the agency and the original manufacturer. The agency has also identified the source of the sensors. Steps are being taken in line with MHRA's anti-counterfeiting strategy which is a combination of communication, collaboration and regulation measures, to minimise the risk of further counterfeit devices reaching end users. There is no evidence that the counterfeit sensors already found are unsafe.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made since October 2010 on providing armed forces veterans with *(a)* physical and *(b)* mental health needs with access to a dedicated 24-hour support line. [43425]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has worked closely with its strategic partner, Combat Stress and the mental health charity Rethink to put the 24 hour support line in place. The helpline will offer a signposting service which will help veterans to access other relevant services, including those which are relevant to the improvement of physical and mental wellbeing for former service personnel. The formal launch of the helpline will take place this month.

Mental Health Services: Offenders

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for the mentally ill and for drugs offenders he has considered; and what progress he has made on the Government's commitment to explore alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for the mentally ill and for drugs offenders; [43430]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to divert *(a)* mentally ill offenders and *(b)* offenders with addiction problems to secure alternatives to prison. [43515]

Paul Burstow: The recent spending review announced by the Government committed to taking forward proposals to invest in mental health diversion services at police stations and courts to intervene at an early stage, diverting mentally ill offenders away from the justice system and into treatment where appropriate. The diversion service will be rolled out nationally over the spending review period, subject to business case approval.

Both the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health have committed to this work in their recently published departmental business plans, and this aim has been supported in the sentencing and rehabilitation Green Paper that was recently published by the Ministry of Justice. The recently published cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy "No health without mental health" clearly details diversion as a key policy contributing to the improved mental health of offenders.

This work on diversion includes the coalition commitment to explore 'alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for mentally ill and drugs offenders'. To support the Health and Criminal Justice work programme an interdepartmental Offender Substance Misuse Board has been convened and met to take this commitment forward. A workstream has been formed that will examine alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for drugs offenders in detail and submit a report by December 2011. In addition, a linked piece of work to scope potential options for alternatives for the mentally ill will start in April 2011 with a view to reporting later in the year.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in implementing each of the recommendations in Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system which his Department accepted. [43513]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government accepted the direction of travel set out by Lord Bradley's review for people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system, the recommendations of which have been carried forward into the cross-departmental health and criminal justice work programme.

The Government are working to improve health and social care outcomes for all people coming into contact with the criminal justice system—whether through the police, courts, probation or prisons. Its key aims are to improve commissioning, reduce health inequalities and re-offending through prevention and early intervention, and to introduce effective liaison and diversion services in police and court settings.

A Health and Criminal Justice Programme Transition Board has been established to oversee implementation of this ambitious programme. A National Advisory Group, comprising our key external partners, has also been formed to champion the programme and ensure the experiences of carers and service users inform its implementation going forwards.

The Board is considering the progress made against Lord Bradley's recommendations and a report on these, setting out our achievements and signalling the way forward for the Health and Criminal Justice Programme will be published shortly.

Mental Illness: Prisoners

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many offenders in prison *(a)* have been diagnosed with a mental illness and *(b)* have been assessed as having severe mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [43424]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally.

The "ONS Survey of Psychiatric Morbidity among Prisoners in England and Wales, 1997" estimated that around 90% of prisoners had at least one of the five disorders (personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse, and drug dependence) considered in the survey. Co-morbidity levels are also high. The same study found functional psychosis in 7% of sentenced male prisoners, 10% of males on remand and 14% of female prisoners. These figures are several times higher than those for the general population.

Source:

Singleton et al, ONS 1997

Midwives

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve midwifery provision. [42973]

Anne Milton: The Government are committed to training the numbers of midwives needed, and is considering several ways to improve midwifery provision, for example, by improving recruitment and retention and by providing preceptorships, mentors for newly qualified midwives and reducing attrition rates.

The planned number of midwives entering training in 2010-11 is 2,493—a record level. We expect there will be a sustained increase in the number of new midwives available to the service over the next few years

In the White Paper "Excellence and Equity: Liberating the NHS" (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) we made a commitment to extend maternity choice through maternity provider networks. Our vision is that maternity provider networks will cover all the services a mother may need throughout pregnancy, birth and the post-natal period, including arrangements to access services that may not be available locally, ensuring that the transitions between individual carers or organisations are as seamless as possible.

It will be for the providers to agree network arrangements and any support or management structures that they might want to adopt, and to identify how these could be resourced including any efficiency gains that might cover the costs.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department plans to provide for hippotherapy treatment for people suffering from multiple sclerosis during the comprehensive spending review period. [43698]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to commission appropriate services to meet the needs of their local population living with multiple sclerosis. This includes making available hippotherapy if this is deemed appropriate.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has assessed the effect of whistleblower rights and protections on safeguarding of *(a)* patients and *(b)* public funds; and if he will make a statement; [42746]

(2) what measures are in place to *(a)* protect and *(b)* encourage whistleblowers in the NHS with concerns over (i) the use of public funds and (ii) the competence of a doctor in (A) general practice and (B) a hospital trust; and whether he plans to introduce any new measures. [42748]

Anne Milton: The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) is part of the wider employment rights legislation and gives the full protection of the law to all staff who act in the public interest, providing they follow the procedures set out in the Act. It therefore applies to all staff working in the national health service.

Although PIDA does not in itself require organisations to set up whistleblowing policies and procedures, it does provide an impetus for doing so. The Department issued guidance to the NHS in 2003 ("So Long Silence—whistleblowing in the NHS: The policy pack"). This guidance made clear that NHS organisations should put in place local policies and procedures that comply with PIDA and set out minimum requirements for such policies.

Following the recommendation made in the Health Select Committee report on Patient Safety published July 2009, this guidance has been revised and published by the Social Partnership Forum, in conjunction with Public Concern at Work, who drafted the guidance. Published on 25 June 2010, "Speak up for a Healthy NHS" provides some simple steps to help NHS organisations ensure their whistleblowing arrangements work in practice.

On 9 June the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), announced a full public inquiry into the role of commissioning, supervising and regulatory bodies in the monitoring of Mid-Staffordshire Foundation Trust. As part of this, he also stated his intentions to undertake further work on whistleblowing and improve procedures for those who wished to raise concerns.

NHS: Public Bodies

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which will be the accrediting body for General Practitioner of Special Interest after the abolition of the primary care trusts and deaneries; and if he will make a statement; [44166]

(2) what arrangements will be made to accredit *(a)* nurses, *(b)* pharmacists and *(c)* podiatrists working independently as practitioners with a special interest under the any willing providers arrangements to be rolled-out following the abolition of primary care trusts. [44167]

Anne Milton: Future arrangements for the accreditation of doctors and pharmacists with a special interest are under review and no decisions have yet been taken. The Department will issue guidance in the spring about the implementation of the "Any Willing Provider" policy for community services, including the way in which providers will qualify. Key principles are that services should be aligned with evidence-based care pathways, that they should meet essential standards of quality and safety, and that individual practitioners should have and maintain the specialist skills needed.

Nurses and podiatrists are not covered by the current accreditation arrangements for practitioners with a special interest, but similar principles are likely to apply.

NHS: Reorganisation

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the proposed restructuring of NHS commissioning in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* England. [43113]

Mr Simon Burns: The costs of the proposed restructuring of NHS commissioning were published in the impact assessment alongside the Health and Social Care Bill 2011. It estimates a cost of £1.2 billion for the abolition of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities and the transfer of their functions to the new organisations.

The Department has not estimated a regional breakdown of these figures, as these will depend on local decisions.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has also been placed in the Library.

North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what acute hospital services are provided by North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust; [43061]

(2) when he expects the rebuilding of West Cumberland Hospital to commence; and what services he expects will be provided at the hospital following its rebuilding. [43278]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for delivering local health services lies with the national health service locally. Both the re-development of acute hospital facilities in Cumbria and decisions on the provision of acute hospital services are a matter for commissioners in Cumbria, working in partnership with patients, the public and other interested stakeholders.

Cumbria primary care trust and the North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust are best placed to advise on the current position of any proposed developments and the provision of local services.

Nutrition

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's budget for improving food, diet and nutrition is in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [43075]

Anne Milton: During 2010-11 and 2011-12, primary care trust (PCT) allocations are not broken down into sums for individual policy streams, and it is for PCTs to decide how much to spend in line with the requirements of the NHS Operating Framework. We do not therefore set an overall budget for expenditure on improving food, diet and nutrition.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to create a system of prescription charges and exemptions which takes into account overall financing of the NHS. [42978]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Barnsley East (Michael Dugher) on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 469W.

Psychiatry

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average NHS commissioners paid for NHS medium-secure psychiatric beds *(a)* to each provider and *(b)* in each day of the latest period for which figures are available. [43426]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows total expenditure on the provision of low and medium-secure and high-dependency services for 2009-10 which is the latest period for which figures are available:

	£
Local Low Secure Service	291,176,260
Local Medium Secure Service	225,508,640
Local Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit	124,435,75
Regional Medium Secure Service	229,906,49
Secure and High Dependency Provision not allocated to service categories	53,283,740
Total	924,310,740

Source:
2009-10 National Survey of Investment in Mental Health Services.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average rate of occupancy was for NHS medium-secure psychiatric beds in each quarter of the last three years; [43427]

(2) what proportion of NHS psychiatric beds are *(a)* generic and *(b)* secure psychiatric beds; and if he will make a statement. [43428]

Paul Burstow: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested.

The following tables show the average daily number of available and occupied beds overnight by mental illness, in England, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The format of collection changed in 2010 and the total does not include information from every national health service trust:

Available

				Mental illness						
			Total	*Children: short stay*	*Children: long stay*	*Elderly: short stay*	*Elderly: long stay*	*Other ages: secure unit*	*Other ages: short stay*	*Other ages: long stay*
2008-09		England	26,430	528	29	6,344	2,047	3,292	11,242	2,948
2009-10		England	25,563	549	48	5,802	1,940	3,438	10,955	2,831
2010-11	Quarter (Q) 1	England	23,501	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2010-11	Q2	England	22,911	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2010-11	Q3	England	23,740	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source:
Department of Health KH03

Occupied

			Mental illness					
		Total	*Children: long stay*	*Elderly: short stay*	*Elderly: long stay*	*Other ages: secure unit*	*Other ages: short stay*	*Other ages: long stay*
2008-09		26,430	23	5,147	1,646	3,003	10,040	2,532
2009-10		25,563	36	4,647	1,582	3,130	9,625	2,332
2010-11	Q1	23,501	—	—	—	—	—	—
2010-11	Q2	22,911	—	—	—	—	—	—
2010-11	Q3	23,740	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source:
Department of Health KH03

South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spends per head of population in the South Staffordshire primary care trust area. [42825]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009-10 South Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) spent £1,500 per head of population. 2009-10 is the most recent financial year for which figures are available.

Notes:

1. "How much his Department spends" has been interpreted as meaning the total revenue expenditure of the PCT (the net operating costs).

2. The net operating cost is taken from the audited summarisation schedules of South Staffordshire PCT for 2009-10. This figure is divided by the PCT's resident population to derive the spend per head figure.

Sunscreens

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in respect of the draft recommendation from the national Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence that sun protection factor 15 is adequate protection against skin cancer; and if he will make a statement. [44168]

Anne Milton: On 26 January 2010, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its guidance "Skin cancer: prevention using public information, sun protection resources and changes to the environment". It is now for commissioners and clinicians to take account of the guidance.

The guidance recommends that sunscreens worn should be 'broad spectrum' and have a minimum sun protection factor 15. 'Broad spectrum' sunscreens offer both UVA and UVB protection.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42640]

Paul Burstow: The Department has the coalition vision for a big society at the heart of its work. In health care, public health and social care, the big society vision has driven our work to help people take control over their lives, the services they use and communities they live in.

The vision set out for the national health service, social care and public health puts patients, service users and carers at the heart of services they use and in control of what they access—'no decision about me without me'. We are shifting power to professionals at the front line, through the development of general practitioner commissioning consortia. We are giving patients access to the information they need to take control of their own care.

We are also continuing to support the voluntary sector to be well placed to contribute to big society. Our Financial Assistance Fund, announced on 28 February 2011 is providing an additional £3.6 million this year to organisations who are experiencing difficulties due the current economic situation. We will maintain investment in voluntary and social enterprise organisations through our Social Enterprise Investment Fund and other Department funding programmes to build the capacity and capability of the sector. These are critical organisations in achieving the largest, most vibrant social enterprise sector in the world.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43240]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's volunteering policy supports its commitment to promoting employee involvement within the community it serves. The policy supports the equality and diversity agenda by providing opportunities for employees to increase their awareness of equality issues and work directly with disadvantaged groups in the local community. It also supports the Government's volunteering agenda in public services, particularly health and social care.

The Department views volunteering as a developmental activity, which contributes to employees' life-long learning, by helping to enhance core skills such as leadership, team building, project management and problem-solving.

The Department's policy on payroll giving is to encourage employees to consider payroll giving and to promote it as an easy and tax-efficient way to make donations to the charity of their choice.

CABINET OFFICE

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the five most popular mechanisms of charitable giving were in each year for which figures are available; [42115]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of charitable giving on individual levels of happiness and well-being; [42129]

(3) what progress he is making in establishing social norms in charitable giving; [42132]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to encourage charitable giving by young children; and if he will make a statement; [42133]

(5) if he will establish a mechanism to monitor the proportion of legacies which go to *(a)* charities and *(b)* families and friends; [42140]

(6) what assessment he has made of the principal reasons for people not making charitable donations; [42141]

(7) what assessment he has made of the influence on giving of examples set by older members within families; [42144]

(8) if he will estimate the proportion of corporate giving arising from the *(a)* pharmaceuticals, *(b)* food retail and wholesale, *(c)* investment services, *(d)* banking and *(e)* furnishing sector; and whether he has made an assessment of long-term trends in the proportion donated by each sector; [42146]

(9) whether he has made an assessment of the effect of corporate giving on company reputation; [42147]

(10) what information his Department holds on the international ranking of the UK in respect of *(a)* corporate giving as share of GDP, *(b)* individual giving as a share of GDP and *(c)* assistance to strangers; [42148]

(11) if he will introduce measures to facilitate an increase in charitable giving through payroll arrangements in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector; [42202]

Mr Hurd: The giving Green Paper, published by the Government in December 2010, contains references to, and sets out, evidence that the Government currently has on giving levels. It opened a consultation on how to make giving more accessible using a variety of platforms and tools. This consultation will close on 9 March and the Government will publish a White Paper on giving after this.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the number of individual charitable donors who have given more that £1 million in each year for which figures are available; and for how long his Department has collected information on levels of charitable donation by individuals. [42142]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office does not hold that information and does not collect information on charitable donation by individuals. The Citizenship Survey, run quarterly by the Department for Communities and Local Government from 2001 does contain information on the numbers of people who give money.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to encourage business to promote charitable giving. [42143]

Mr Hurd: In "Every Business Commits", the Government set out some of the ways business can promote and support giving. The giving Green Paper opened a consultation on how to make giving more accessible and have an impact. This consultation will close on 9 March 2011 and the Government will publish a White Paper on giving after this.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition his Department uses of a corporate citizen in its giving Green Paper. [42138]

Mr Hurd: The reference to "good 'corporate citizen'" was in the context of Department of Health initiatives. DH defines good corporate citizenship as:

> "social, economic and environmental considerations inform your decisions";

and

> "your day to day activities contribute to sustainable development".

Charities: Internet

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the scope for greater use of websites across Government to raise the profile of charities which are working with the Government as part of the big society initiative. [42134]

Mr Hurd: The giving Green Paper, published by the Government in December 2010, contains references to, and sets out, the Government's assessment of giving. It opened a consultation on how to make giving more accessible using a variety of platforms and tools noting that Government are keen to use all their resources, including websites, to encourage giving. This consultation will close on 9 March and the Government will publish a White Paper on giving after this.

Charities: Regulation

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government is taking to reduce the burden of regulation on charities. [44331]

Mr Hurd: Voluntary work is hampered by a thicket of bureaucracy that uses up time and money and causes frustration that can discourage volunteering.

The Government are determined to cut this bureaucracy, which is why we have set up a Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce chaired by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts. The taskforce is addressing the question "what can we do to cut red tape for small organisations?" The taskforce is looking at a range of issues that we know cause difficulties for charities including funding, licensing, employment law, and insurance and will report in the spring.

The Government will also be carrying out a review of the Charities Act 2006 later this year that will assess how the provisions of that Act are working and consider whether any changes are needed.

Civil Service

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what progress has been made on developing a civic service within the civil service; what role this will play in the big society initiative; and if he will make a statement; [41828]

(2) how many civil servants in each Government Department have enrolled in the civic service programme as part of the big society initiative. [41829]

Mr Hurd: In May 2010, the coalition Government's programme for government stated that we will take a range of measures to encourage volunteering and involvement in social action. This included turning the civil service into a civic service, by making regular community service an element of civil service staff appraisals.

On 17 February 2011 the Government announced that as part of the civic service initiative each civil servant will be encouraged to do at least one day of volunteering each year using special leave. Additional we announced that the civil service will aim to give 30,000 volunteering days per year. The civic service will begin from April 2011, from which point civil servants will be able to take part and enrol.

The civic service will play a key role in creating the big society, by encouraging social action among civil servants and enabling them to use their skills to support voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations.

Civil Service: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of members of the senior civil service in each Government Department are women. [42711]

Mr Maude: The number of women in the senior civil service (SCS) in each Government Department and the percentage of the total number of each Department's SCS who are women (as at March 2010) are set out in the following table:

Civil service Department/ agency	*Number of women in the senior civil service*	*Percentage of senior civil service*
Cabinet Office	56	41
Central Office of Information	6	32
Charity Commission	3	38
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	7	24
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	20	53
Crown Prosecution Service	12	36
Department for Business Innovation and Skills	82	38
Department for Children, Schools and Families	66	55
Department for Communities and Local Government	45	39
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	16	39
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	51	31
Department for International Development	32	34
Department for Transport	60	28
Department for Work and Pensions	115	38
Department of Energy and Climate Change	16	24
Department of Health	111	41
ESTYN	1	33
Export Credits Guarantee Department	1	8
Food Standards Agency	12	41
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	12	20
Government Communications Headquarters	9	19
Government Equalities Office	5	63
Government Offices for the Regions	29	43
Health and Safety Executive	10	20
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	1	33
HM Revenue and Customs	127	32
HM Treasury	49	42
Home Office	77	32
Land Registry	9	31
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	51	41
Ministry of Defence	54	20
Ministry of Justice	92	36
National Archives	2	33
National Savings and Investments	3	25
National School of Government	4	44
Northern Ireland Office	5	25
Office for Standards in Education	20	53
Office of Fair Trading	17	37
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	12	39
Office of Government Commerce	9	29
Office of Rail Regulation	4	25
Office of the Parliamentary Counsel	18	38
Ofwat	2	29
Ordnance Survey	2	29
Postal Services Commission	0	0
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	1	33
Scottish Government	87	38
Serious Fraud Office	1	17
Treasury Solicitors Department	40	53
UK Supreme Court	1	50
United Kingdom Statistics Authority	14	30
Welsh Assembly Government	55	38
Senior civil service	1,534	35

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what plans he has to recognise the efforts of civil servants who enrol in civic service schemes; [41830]

(2) which other Government Departments are participating in his Department's civic service scheme; [42130]

(3) if he will invite the House of Commons Commission to participate in his Department's civic service scheme; [42135]

(4) if he will invite hon. Members to participate in his Department's civic service scheme. [42136]

Mr Hurd: On 17 February 2011 the Government announced that as part of the civic service initiative each civil servant will be encouraged to do at least one day of volunteering each year using special leave. In addition, the Government announced that the civil service will aim to give 30, 000 volunteering days per year.

The civic service will begin from April 2011 and officials in the Office for Civil Society are exploring ways of recognising the efforts of civil servants that volunteer their time. The volunteering opportunities created through the civic service will be available to all civil servants, apart from those in the devolved administrations who will have different arrangements. The civic service is wholly focused on encouraging civil servants to volunteer and will therefore not be extended to hon. Members.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to his Department's giving Green Paper, what the location is of each *(a)* community foundation and *(b)* volunteer centre sponsored by his Department; and what their role is in the big society initiative. [42139]

Mr Hurd: We provide funding to community foundations through the Grassroots Grants programme, more details of this can found here: www.cdf.org.uk We provide funding to volunteer centres via:

V—the National Young Volunteers Service:

www.vinspired.com

National Support Service—modernising volunteering strand:

www.capacitybuilders.org.uk

Volunteer Managers:

www.capacitybuilders.org.uk

Access to Volunteering Fund:

www.accesstovolunteering.org

All of these initiatives help make it easier for people to give their time to volunteer by giving better opportunities to potential volunteers and improving the quality of support available to charities, social enterprises and the voluntary sector to deliver great experiences. This is by making great opportunities more visible and supported. The big society is about supporting a culture where more people get involved.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication "Principles of Good Employment Practice". [42631]

Mr Maude: Government recognise the importance and value of good employment practices in delivering public services. The "Principles of Good Employment Practice" in contracted out services are a flexible guide giving employers of contracted out public services the power to build a motivated workforce.

The principles were published to share, encourage and safeguard good practice and they were developed from discussions with trade unions and suppliers. They set clear standards and give employers the freedom to provide terms for staff which are motivating and affordable and through this, better delivery of public services.

Cabinet Office circulated the principles to all central Government Departments, via procurement and HR networks and asked Departments to disseminate the principles through their own networks and promote them where relevant in discussion with stakeholders.

There will be a review of the application of the new principles through the Public Services Forum (PSF), a national forum chaired by me. The PSF brings together Government, public, private and voluntary sector employers and trade unions. The review will take place during 2011.

The package of documents can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/principles-good-employment-practice

Departmental Policy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what account he has taken of the compact between the Government and civil society in policy development; [42614]

(2) with reference to the compact, what meaningful engagement and partnership he has developed with the voluntary sector since the implementation of the big society initiative. [42686]

Mr Hurd: The Compact agreed between the coalition Government and civil society organisations in December 2010, aims to ensure that the Government and civil society organisations work effectively in partnership to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens in England.

Since May 2010, the Cabinet Office has published a number of consultations, formally seeking the views of civil society organisations in the development of policy, and also held informal events. These include: "Supporting a Stronger Civil Society"; the Giving Green Paper; the modernising commissioning Green Paper; and three summits at No. 10 on mutuals, the impact of the cuts, and public service reform.

The Office for Civil Society is in the process of selecting strategic partners for 2011-14, ensuring that the sector's voice is represented in the development of government policy and programmes.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to his Department's document on the compact, what specific improvements he has made under commitment 1.4 to ensure greater transparency by making data and information more accessible; and if he will make a statement. [42788]

Mr Hurd: The ambition of this Government is to make the UK the most transparent and accountable Government in the world. This will enable the public to hold Government to account for their performance, create better value for money, stimulate growth, and improve public services.

Since May 2010 a number of steps have been taken towards achieving this aim. Some of the new information made available includes: 'street-level' crime data and details of spending transactions over £25,000 for Government Departments and over £500 for local authorities. These and many other datasets are available on Department's individual websites and at:

www.data.gov.uk

A new website has been launched which details all central Government contracts and tenders worth over £10,000 and in April 2011 Departments will publish information strategies in their business plans, outlining what further information they will make available to the public, and by when. The opening public services White Paper, due to be published in March, will set out further details on opening up new markets and challenging existing provision.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to his Department's document, the compact, what progress has been made on commitment 1.2 to ensure CSOs are supported and resourced in a reasonable and fair manner where they are helping the Government fulfil its aims; how much funding has been allocated to achieve this aim; and if he will make a statement. [42789]

Mr Hurd: The new Strategic Partners Transition programme will start in April 2011 and run for three years. The programme will fund key national representative civil society organisations (CSOs) to ensure that they can efficiently and effectively act as a conduit between government and wider frontline CSOs, communicating and helping to support and deliver the strategic policy of the Office for Civil Society. These organisations will support CSOs to contribute to the development of the big society.

Other Departments—such as the Department for Education, the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice similarly have funded strategic partners programmes, enabling CSOs to input into the development of policy and provide representative voice.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to his Department's document on the compact, what progress his Department has made on commitment 1.3 to ensure that the Government collectively, through the Cabinet Office, recognises the need to resource national and local support and development organisations in order to assist CSOs with their capacity and capability to deliver positive outcomes; how much funding has been allocated to achieve this aim; and if he will make a statement. [42790]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office will support voluntary and community organisations through the modernisation of sector development infrastructure so that it can provide appropriate support and advice for frontline organisations, increasing their effectiveness and helping them to achieve greater impact.

The Cabinet Office is also supporting the development of an effective social investment market, including the creation of the big society bank, to unlock new finance for social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations.

We are working with Big Lottery Fund on arrangements for making early investments with dormant accounts funds from mid-2011. We will provide more details about this in April 2011.

Employment: Glasgow

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the number of couple households of one full-time worker and two children in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK. [43682]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of couple households of one full-time worker and two children in (a) Glasgow North East constituency, (b) Glasgow, (c) Scotland and (d) the UK. (43682).

The figures requested come from the Labour Force Survey household datasets, the most recent period available covers April to June 2010. Due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Glasgow North East constituency or Glasgow local authority because of small sample sizes. However, the attached table shows estimates for Scotland and the UK.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Couple households[1] containing one person in full-time employment[2] and two children[3] in Scotland and the UK, April to June 2010

Thousand

	Estimate	*Lower bound[4]*	*Upper bound[4]*
UK	1,538	1,498	1,578
Scotland	117	106	129

[1] Households including at least one person aged 16-64.

[2] Dependent children aged 0-18.

[3] There are a small number of households where the full-time worker is a non-dependent child over the age of 16.

[4] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:
LFS household dataset

Financial Services: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the proportion of people in Halifax employed in the banking and finance sector. [44551]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of people in Halifax employed in the banking and finance sector. (44551)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The proportion of people employed in the banking and finance sector for the 12 month period ending in June 2010 in Halifax was 9.4%.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Government Departments

Claire Perry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets he has set in respect of the outsourcing of functions by Government Departments, non-departmental public bodies and agencies in each year of the spending review period; and what mechanism he will use to measure performance against these targets. [41836]

Mr Maude: The Government support greater diversity of provision in public services and want to see non-state providers from the private, independent and voluntary and community sectors play a bigger part in service provision. The Government believe that the talents and imaginations of providers in these sectors can stimulate innovation and improve results.

Currently the Government are looking at how best to achieve greater diversity of provision in developing their Open Public Service White Paper. They will set out their approaches to specific challenges when that Paper is published later this year.

Mass Media

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of *(a)* reading newspapers and *(b)* watching television news on levels of civic engagement and participation. [40629]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not made an assessment of the potential effects of newspapers or watching television on levels of civic engagement. In December 2010 the Government published the giving Green Paper, which sought to start a debate on how we can encourage more people to give their time. This consultation will close on 9 March and the Government will publish a White Paper on giving after this.

New Businesses: Blackpool

Paul Maynard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses were started in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [43157]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses were started in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in (a) 2007, (b) 2008, (c) 2009 and (d) 2010 (43157).

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births for the ward areas that cover the new constituency of Blackpool North and Cleveleys for 2007, 2008 and 2009. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication in November 2011.

Enterprise births in Blackpool and Cleveleys 2007-09

Blackpool North and Cleveleys	*Number*
2007	315
2008	270
2009	220

New Businesses: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses were started in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [44106]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses were started in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [44106]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below gives the number of enterprise births for the constituency of Dartford in the last five years that data are available for.

Enterprise births in Dartford constituency 2005-09

	Number
2005	435
2006	455
2007	460
2008	425
2009	405

Office for Civil Society

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing levels are of the Office for Civil Society in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the next four years. [42552]

Mr Hurd: Expenditure by the Office for Civil Society in 2010-11 is reported in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts. Note 11 of the accounts breaks down this expenditure by programme.

The overall budget for the Office for Civil Society from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is £470 million. Expenditure over the next four years will be published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts.

Staffing levels for each unit of the Cabinet Office are published on a regular basis on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Population: Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the size of the Yemeni population in the UK. [44258]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the size of the Yemeni population in the UK (44258).

The Office for National Statistics collects data on country of birth and nationality on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is a household survey of residents of the UK. The latest estimates available are for the 12 month period July 2009 to June 2010. These data show there are 15,000 Yemeni nationals and 20,000 Yemeni born residents in the UK. The margins of error surrounding these estimates are +/- 5,000 and +/- 6,000 respectively.

Television: Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the average amount of time a UK citizen spent *(a)* watching television and *(b)* volunteering in each year for which figures are available. [41822]

Mr Hurd: The giving Green Paper published in December 2010 included assessments from secondary sources on the amount of time spent on volunteering and watching television each week. Data from the 2005 Time Use survey suggest that the average person spends nearly 17 hours watching television each week. Data from the 2008-09 Citizenship Survey, conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government, suggest that people in England spend an average of one hour a week on voluntary work.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times the Informal Ministerial Group on the Big Society and Localism has met; who attended each meeting; how long each meeting lasted; and what the outcomes were. [42556]

Mr Hurd: The group has met twice on 21 July 2010 and 28 October 2010.

The 21 July meeting lasted for 1 hour and the attendees were:

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Francis Maude MP (Chair)

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Eric Pickles MP

Minister of State for Decentralisation, CLG, the right hon. Greg Clark MP

Minister for Civil Society, Cabinet Office, Nick Hurd MP

Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Justine Greening MP

Minister of State for Disabled People, DWP, Maria Miller MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, Crispin Blunt MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, MOD (Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans), Andrew Robathan MP

Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, BIS, Edward Davey MP

Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, DECC, Greg Barker MP

Minister of State for Care Services, DH, Paul Burstow MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Fisheries, DEFRA, Richard Benyon MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, DFT, Norman Baker, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Wales Office, David Jones MP

Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Office, Hugo Swire MP

Government Adviser on Big Society, Lord Wei

Director General, Office for Civil Society, Cabinet Office, Rolande Anderson

The 28 October meeting lasted for 1.5 hours and the attendees were:

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Francis Maude MP (Chair)

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Eric Pickles MP

Minister of State for Decentralisation, CLG, the right hon. Greg Clark MP

Minister for Civil Society, Cabinet Office, Nick Hurd MP

Minister of State for Care Services, DH, Paul Burstow MP

Minister of State for Children and Families, DFE, Sarah Teather MP

Minister for Tourism and Heritage, DCMS, John Penrose MP

Minister of State, DECC, Charles Hendry MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Fisheries, DEFRA, Richard Benyon MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, MoJ, Crispin Blunt MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Equalities and Criminal Information, GEO, Lynne Featherstone MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, DFID, Stephen O'Brien MP

Government Adviser on Big Society, Lord Wei

Lord Victor Adebowale, CEO, Turning Point (LIS item only)

Liz Meek, Director, Government Office for the North West (LIS item only)

Commodore Bob Mansergh, MOD

Director General, Office for Civil Society, Cabinet Office, Rolande Anderson

Jane Bateman, BIS

The outcomes of these meetings have been to share ideas and support progress on cross cutting-issues such as the role of the voluntary sector in service delivery, the progress of the big society in vanguard areas, and the compact between the voluntary sector and the state.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what papers on *(a)* civic society, *(b)* the big society and *(c)* related issues his Department has issued since his appointment. [44302]

Mr Hurd: All papers published are within the public domain and can be accessed through the Cabinet Office web pages at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/topic/165

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on refreshing and renewing the commitments in the compact document. [44303]

Mr Hurd: The coalition Government and Compact Voice launched the renewed compact in December last year. At present, there are no further plans to refresh this agreement. However, as policy development and legislation progresses, the compact will be monitored to ensure it is up to date and meaningful.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what resource his Department has allocated to support services provided to people specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups under section 5.1 of the compact document in the latest period for which figures are available; [44317]

(2) what progress his Department has made towards establishing an equal and fair society as set out in the compact between the Government and civil society organisations. [44455]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not allocated any specific resource for supporting services provided to people specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups. However, the Office for Civil Society works closely with the Government Equalities Office who are also represented on the Informal Ministerial Group on the Big Society and Localism.

Assessing impact and accessibility to groups working with people specifically protected by legislation is considered at the design stage of all Office for Civil Society policy and programmes to advance equality and ensure a voice for under-represented groups.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which organisations his Department consulted in developing its policy on future funding to voluntary organisations in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the compact between Government and civil society organisations; what feedback his Department has given to the consultees in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of the compact; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that policy on local efforts to inspire and encourage social action and to empower communities in accordance with paragraph 2.2 of the compact. [44446]

Mr Hurd: In July last year, civil society organisations were invited to contribute ideas on how savings could best be made as part of the sector challenge announced by the Minister for Civil Society. In November, 20 sector organisations were invited to a summit at Number 11 on the back of this exercise to discuss input into policy development.

The strategy for building a stronger civil society was published in October last year. This strategy set out key objectives including getting more resources into the sector through initiatives such as big society bank.

A number of consultations that have an impact on the future funding landscape for the sector, have been published including: "Supporting a Stronger Civil Society; Modernising Commissioning; a Giving green paper", as well as "Growing the Social Investment Market—a vision and strategy". Responses to these consultations are still being considered.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what progress his Department has made towards establishing clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services as set out in the compact between the Government and civil society organisations; [44456]

(2) what progress his Department has made towards establishing responsive and high-quality programmes and services as set out in the compact between the Government and civil society organisations; [44457]

(3) what progress his Department has made towards establishing effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services as set out in the compact between the Government and civil society organisations. [44458]

Mr Hurd: The renewed compact between the coalition Government and civil society organisations sets out shared principles and commitments for mutually beneficial partnership working. The outcomes in the compact are joint outcomes that the coalition government will work in partnership with civil society organisations to achieve.

Beyond this, the compact sets a framework for what is expected of Government Departments, but it does not prescribe how individual Departments should be achieving the objectives. No one size fits all and Departments will work with civil society organisations to achieve their strategic objectives in a way that is consistent with the compact.

The compact is not a bureaucratic or regulatory device that is monitored. However, for the first time, an accountability framework has been published alongside the renewed compact and this can be found on the Cabinet Office website. This includes an inquiry into the implementation of the compact by the National Audit Office. This report will be presented to Parliament.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department has made towards establishing a strong, diverse and independent civil society as set out in the compact between the Government and civil society organisations. [44459]

Mr Hurd: The vision of this coalition Government is for civil society organisations to be independent, resilient and more influential in shaping a stronger sense of society and improving people's lives.

A consultation on supporting a stronger civil society ended in January this year and responses are currently being considered. Through the modernisation of sector development infrastructure, appropriate support and advice for frontline organisations can be provided, increasing their effectiveness and helping them to achieve greater impact. Through "Growing the Social Investment Market—a vision and strategy", published in February 2011, new finance for social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations is being unlocked for greater independence and sustainability.

Transition Fund

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to his Department's press release of 15 February 2011, on the Transition Fund, what the evidential basis is for the statement that 75 per cent. of charities receive no funding from the state. [43525]

Mr Hurd: The evidential basis of the statement that 75% of charities receive no funding from the state is the NCVO Civil Society Almanac 2010, which estimates that 78% of general charities do not receive any income from statutory sources.

Voluntary Organisations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on the *(a)* membership and *(b)* establishment of the philanthropy ambassador programme in relation to the big society initiative. [41813]

Mr Hurd: We are consulting on a possible philanthropy ambassadors programme as part of the Green Paper process. More information will be available when we publish the giving White Paper in the spring.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what long-term trends in levels of donations to charitable trusts and foundations his Department has identified; [41821]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent of spare capacity within the Government estate that could be used for voluntary and community groups as part of developing the big society initiative; [41825]

(3) what assessment he has made of the role of *(a)* social and *(b)* traditional media in promoting (i) giving and (ii) volunteering as part of his Department's work in developing the big society initiative; [41832]

(4) what assessment he has made of the potential role of *(a)* time banking and *(b)* complementary currencies in promoting the big society; [41880]

(5) what assessment he has made of the role of peer-to-peer lending in developing the big society; and if he will make a statement; [41881]

(6) what information his Department holds on the proportion of charitable giving which was directed to *(a)* medical research, *(b)* children and young people, *(c)* overseas aid, *(d)* hospitals and hospices, *(e)* animal welfare, *(f)* religious organisations, *(g)* disabled people, *(h)* homeless people, *(i)* health, *(j)* education, *(k)* environment, *(l)* sports and *(m)* arts purposes in the last 10 years. [41980]

Mr Hurd: The giving Green Paper, published by the Government in December 2010, contains references to, and sets out, the Government's assessment of giving levels. It opened a consultation on how to make giving more accessible using a variety of platforms and tools. This consultation will close on 9 March and the Government will publish a White Paper on giving after this.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector workers who (i) donated money to charity and (ii) gave time volunteering in the latest period for which figures are available. [41827]

Mr Hurd: The Government do not collect data on the proportion of public and/or private sectors workers that have donated to charity or given time. The nearest available data are from the 2007 Cabinet Office funded report 'Helping Out, the national survey of volunteering and charitable giving.' The report can be found at:

www.ivr.org.uk/evidence-bank/evidence-pages/Helping+Out+-+A+national+survey+of+volunteering+and+charitable+giving

The information is contained in Chapter 9—Employee volunteering.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the median amount given in charitable donations by UK adults was in each of the last 10 years. [41981]

Mr Hurd: The Government do not hold this information.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions his Department has had with Compact Voice on the *(a)* past, *(b)* current and *(c)* future levels of Government funding for the voluntary sector. [42787]

Mr Hurd: The compact outlines undertakings for Government and Civil Society organisations on partnership working—effective and transparent development and management of policy, programmes and funding. Details of Government spending on the voluntary and community sector as a whole is a matter for individual departments and not subject to agreement with Compact Voice.

However, Cabinet Office officials have met with Compact Voice to discuss their funding settlement over the next spending review period 2011-2015 which includes a significant increase in funding on the previous spending review period.

Furthermore, by making details of public spending more transparent, in particular spending on the voluntary and community sector, the coalition Government are making it easier for citizens and community organisations to challenge and hold Government to account.

Voluntary Organisations: Training

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken together with Compact Voice to provide training and advice for the voluntary sector on using the compact. [42554]

Mr Hurd: The Office for Civil Society (OCS), based within the Cabinet Office, represents the Government in the compact agreement. Civil society organisations are represented by Compact Voice. OCS funds Compact Voice to promote, educate and increase awareness and use of the compact within the sector.

Since the launch of the renewed compact in December 2010, Compact Voice has emailed the document to over 44,000 charities and sector organisations. They have engagement officers who are responsible for providing training and advice on the compact to the sector. They support key local compact champions in raising awareness of the compact and produce a number of briefings for the sector. In addition, they are hosting three conferences in March 2011, bringing together local and national players to explore better partnership working between government and civil society organisations.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what factors his Department has identified as barriers to people giving more time to volunteering; [41882]

(2) what information his Department holds on participation rates in volunteering in the area of *(a)* education, *(b)* religion, *(c)* sports and exercise, *(d)* health and disabilities, *(e)* children and young people, *(f)* animal welfare, *(g)* local community neighbourhood or citizen groups, *(h)* hobbies, recreation and social groups, *(i)* overseas aid disaster relief, *(j)* elderly people, *(k)* conservation and environment, *(l)* arts and museums and *(m)* social welfare in the last 10 years. [41979]

Mr Hurd: The Government's Citizenship Survey provides data on barriers to formal volunteering and data on the levels of volunteering by type of organisation helped.

The data are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/subject/cohesionstatistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many UK citizens have received big society awards to date. [41889]

Mr Hurd: The big society awards were set up by the Prime Minister in November 2010. The aim is to acknowledge individuals and organisations across the UK that demonstrate the big society in their work or activities. In so doing, the aim is also to galvanise others to follow.

11 awards have now been made to date—details of these awards can all be found on the No. 10 website at:

www.number10.gov.uk/bigsocietyawards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of long-term trends in the motivating factors for people volunteering in *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal settings. [42119]

Mr Hurd: The information being sought is in the public domain and can be found in the Government's Citizenship Survey. The Citizenship Survey provides historical data on trends in formal and informal volunteering. The survey includes data on motivations for formal volunteering, but not for informal volunteering.

The data are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/subject/cohesionstatistics

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BBC World Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely savings to accrue from changes to the Grant-in-Aid funding to the BBC World Service resulting in the closure of the *(a)* Albanian, *(b)* Macedonian, *(c)* Portuguese for Africa, *(d)* Serbian and *(e)* English for the Caribbean services. [41672]

Mr Jeremy Browne: According to the figures provided by the British Broadcasting Corporation World Service, the costs of the five language services are:

	£
Albanian	947,919
Macedonian	423,549
Portuguese for Africa	555,131
Serbian	1,034,025
English for the Caribbean	364,781

The savings made from the closure of these services will contribute to the overall savings the Word Service will make under the terms of the spending review.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely savings to accrue from the BBC World Service ceasing short wave radio distribution *(a)* in Hindi, *(b)* in Indonesian, *(c)* in Kyrgyz, *(d)* in Nepali, *(e)* in Swahili and *(f)* to the Great Lakes. [41675]

Mr Jeremy Browne: These decisions were made by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service as part of their managerial independence, as set out in the Broadcasting Agreement between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the BBC World Service. Therefore, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the figures for the likely savings from the ceasing of these short-wave services.

Christchurch: Earthquake

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response his Department made to the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch; and what assistance it has given to the Government of New Zealand since the event. [43822]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to New Zealand Foreign Minister McCully on 22 February 2011 to convey his sincere condolences for all those who have lost their lives, and for the terrible damage caused by the earthquake.

Staff from our High Commission in Wellington, led by our High Commissioner, deployed to Christchurch within 12 hours of the earthquake to liaise with the New Zealand authorities and provide consular assistance to British nationals. In response to a request from the New Zealand Government, the UK immediately sent a fully self sufficient search and rescue team of 63 experts drawn from the British emergency fire and rescue services.

In addition, the New Zealand Government have accepted the UK offer of support in the process of Disaster Victim Identification. A ten man team specially tailored to support the New Zealand authorities, has flown out and will provide essential support and expertise in helping to identify any potential British victims and bolster the New Zealand authorities in their wider identification process.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010. [42301]

Alistair Burt: Approximately 170 UK-based employees have left the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) since May 2010. This excludes staff coming to the FCO on loan from other Government Departments and returning to their parent Departments at the end of these loans.

We do not hold data centrally on the number of locally engaged staff leaving and this could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were employed in his Department on *(a)* 1 January 2005 and *(b)* 1 January 2011. [42420]

Alistair Burt: The number of staff in 2005 was roughly the same as now: approximately 5,000 UK-based employees and approximately 10,000 locally engaged staff. For operational and security reasons we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible [43536]

Alistair Burt: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Hezbollah

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Syrian counterpart on weapons transferred to Hezbollah. [43170]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, during his visit to Damascus in January 2011, raised the issue of Hezbollah's weapons with both President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem, where he highlighted the dangers to stability in the region in allowing weapons smuggling to Hizballah.

We continue to press for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR), most notably UNSCR 1701, which calls upon Hezbollah to disarm, and our ambassador in Damascus regularly raises the issue of Hezbollah's weapons with the Syrian Government.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of weapons smuggled from Iran to *(a)* Hezbollah and *(b)* Hamas since 2006. [43194]

Alistair Burt: We continue to monitor closely Iranian support to Hezbollah and Hamas, including supply of weapons. We have consistently stressed the negative impact this has on stability in the Middle East and condemn it in all its forms.

We assess that since the 2006 conflict with Israel, Hezbollah has now been rearmed to the extent that its capabilities exceed those in 2006. We assess that Iran is the most significant provider of weapons, training and funding to Hezbollah.

We assess that Hamas has rebuilt at least some of the capabilities it lost in the 2008-09 Gaza conflict. Since then, Hamas may have acquired from Iran both a number of longer range rockets with the potential to reach Tel Aviv and some advanced anti-tank guided weapons. We assess that Iran is a significant provider of weapons and funds to the group.

We regularly raise this issue with senior political leaders in the region. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised arms transfers to Hezbollah with President Assad when he visited Syria on 27 January 2011.

We will continue to push for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions which call for the disarmament of these armed groups and prohibit weapons transfers and support the UN sanctions committees pursuing and investigating sanctions violations.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Hezbollah's military capability in southern Lebanon. [43197]

Alistair Burt: We remain concerned by reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities.

The 31 January 2011 EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted Conclusions recalling its commitment to the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701, which call for the disarmament of Hezbollah and other militia.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to seek the disarmament of Hezbollah in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1701. [43199]

Alistair Burt: We continue to press for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR), most notably UNSCR 1701, which calls upon Hezbollah to disarm.

During his visit to Damascus in January the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), the issue of Hezbollah's weapons with both President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem, where he highlighted the dangers to stability in the region in allowing weapons smuggling to Hezbollah.

The Prime Minister discussed UNSCR 1701 with Prime Minister Hariri during his visit to the UK in November 2010, underlining the need for Hezbollah to disarm to ensure the stability of Lebanon.

Our embassies in Damascus and Beirut continue to press these points.

Iran

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2009. [43279]

Alistair Burt: We have had various contacts with Iran since 2009 in London, Tehran and in the course of international business, including negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. Principal contacts at official level have been through our ambassador and his staff at our embassy in Tehran and between Foreign and Commonwealth Office senior officials and the Iranian ambassador and chargé d'affaires in London. At ministerial level, successive Foreign Secretaries and Ministers of State for the Middle East have met with Iranian Ministers and senior officials. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), met former Iranian Foreign Minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, at the UN General Assembly in September 2010.

Iran: Nuclear Power

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his Israeli counterpart and *(b)* his EU counterparts on (i) Iran's nuclear capabilities and (ii) the effectiveness of existing sanctions on Iran. [43195]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), regularly discusses Iran's nuclear programme and the effectiveness of sanctions against Iran with his Israeli and EU counterparts. Officials also have regular discussions with Israeli and EU counterparts on Iran's armed forces.

These discussions are informed by the regular reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which continue to highlight continued Iranian non-compliance with its obligations. International sanctions, including those adopted by the UN and the EU, show the strength of international concern about Iran's nuclear programme. It is clear that these sanctions are having an impact. Iran is finding it increasingly difficult to acquire goods of proliferation concern and is also finding it harder to access international finance. But, following Iranian behaviour at the latest round of EU3+3 talks in Istanbul, it is also clear that the pressure on Iran needs to increase.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* Egyptian, *(c)* Jordanian and *(d)* Saudi Arabian counterpart on the Iranian Government's refusal to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect non-declared nuclear facilities. [43399]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had a number of conversations with his Israeli, Egyptian, Jordanian and Saudi counterparts—including during his recent visit to the region—about Iran's continued non-compliance with its obligations towards the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As numerous reports from the IAEA Director General have shown, Iran is failing to co-operate fully with the Agency on a range of issues, including denying full access to sites and personnel related to the nuclear programme.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the Iranian Government's refusal to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect non-declared nuclear facilities. [43400]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had a number of conversations with his EU counterparts about Iran's continued non-compliance with its obligations towards the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As numerous reports from the IAEA Director General have shown, Iran is failing to co-operate fully with the IAEA on a range of issues, including denying full access to sites and personnel related to the nuclear programme. Consequently, the UK agreed with EU colleagues to implement a range of further sanctions against Iran adopted following UN Security Council Resolution 1929.

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK policy on Iran of the recent statement by the Iranian President that the country's right to nuclear capabilities is non-negotiable. [43401]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has said, we do not challenge Iran's right to a peaceful nuclear programme. However with this right comes responsibilities. Successive reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) highlight the areas where Iran continues to refuse to co-operate with the UN, the IAEA or comply with its safeguards obligations. Alongside our international partners, we remain committed to seeking a diplomatic solution to this issue. However, until Iran chooses to engage seriously and take steps to resolve the concerns of the international community, the pressure on it will only increase.

Iran: Sanctions

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Israeli counterpart and *(b)* his EU counterparts on (i) Iran's conventional military capabilities and (ii) the effectiveness of the sanctions regime against Iran. [43398]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses Iran's nuclear programme and the effectiveness of sanctions against Iran with his Israeli and EU counterparts. Our officials also have regular discussions with Israeli and EU counterparts on Iran's armed forces.

These discussions are informed by the regular reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which continue to highlight continued Iranian non-compliance with its obligations. International sanctions, including those adopted by the UN and the EU, show the strength of international concern about Iran's nuclear programme. It is clear that these sanctions are having an impact. Iran is finding it increasingly difficult to acquire goods of proliferation concern and is also finding it harder to access international finance. But, following Iranian behaviour at the latest round of EU3+3 talks in Istanbul, it is also clear that the pressure on Iran needs to increase.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of British citizens remaining in Libya. [44141]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, on Libya: Consular Response in which I updated the House on the efforts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made to help British nationals depart Libya.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many aircraft his Department has chartered for the purposes of evacuating UK nationals from Tripoli since 15 February 2011. [44431]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 35-36WS on Libya: Consular Response in which I updated the House on the efforts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made to help British nationals depart Libya.

Libya: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the political situation in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [44143]

Alistair Burt: As the Prime Minister said in the House on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, Britain has taken on a leading role in co-ordinating international pressure to isolate the Qadhafi regime and ensure that anyone responsible for abuses in Libya will be held to account. On 24 February 2011, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), spoke to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to discuss measures such as the now agreed UN Security Resolution which condemned Colonel Qadhafi's actions and demanded an immediate end to the violence and killing of protestors. The Secretary of State met Secretary of State Clinton at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 28 February 2011, during which both the Secretary of State and Secretary Clinton called for Libya's suspension from the Council.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to prevent the use of foreign mercenaries against Libyan civilians. [44144]

Alistair Burt: As the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, the UK is taking a lead on co-ordinating international pressure to isolate the Qadhafi regime, deprive it of money, shrink its power and ensure that anyone responsible for abuses in Libya will be held to account. For example, the UK instigated a strong UN Security Resolution which was passed unanimously on 26 February and called on the Libyan Government to meet its responsibility to protect its population and imposed a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo. On 28 February, the EU agreed a Council decision imposing a travel ban and asset freeze on the Libyan regime which came into force on 3 March.

We will continue to work with the international community to put pressure on Colonel Qadhafi to stop the violence and to step down. As the Prime Minister has said we should also prepare for all eventualities, particularly if Colonel Qadhafi strikes out against the Libyan people. We are therefore doing contingency planning and preparation so that we are ready to respond very quickly to the situation on the ground as required.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 434-5W, on the Middle East: peace negotiations, what assessment he has made of the progress made by *(a)* Lebanon, *(b)* Tunisia, *(c)* Morocco and *(d)* Algeria in advancing (i) regional cooperation and (ii) their relations with Israel. [43394]

Alistair Burt: The European External Action Service and European Commission publish annual European Neighbourhood Policy reports covering all partner countries, including Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. While we do not have a fixed date for publication in 2011, last year's reports were published in May 2010.

The latest assessments by country are at:

http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm

Until annual European Neighbourhood Policy report is published we are unable to make an assessment on the progress made.

North Africa: Foreign Relations

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of the UK's relations with countries in North Africa. [42814]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has followed recent events in North Africa very closely. Relations between the UK and countries in North Africa need to be examined again in the light of these events. The Government believe that the long-term stability of the region is in the UK's national interest.

Reform is a home-grown process and leadership must come from within countries. We cannot and should not dictate who is in power in the region. However, as the Prime Minister said in his statement on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, we must not remain silent in our belief that freedom and the rule of law are what best guarantee human progress and economic success. We can play a positive role in supporting countries taking forward economic, social and political reforms which can meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of North Africa's people, and helping to put in place the building blocks for more open societies. The Prime Minister also made clear that we need to link our development assistance to real progress in promoting more open societies.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the first follow-up meeting of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council will take place; and what the Government's objectives are for this meeting. [43350]

Alistair Burt: France announced last year that it would host the next meeting of the five nuclear weapon states as a follow-up to the P5 conference on confidence building measures towards nuclear disarmament hosted by the UK in September 2009. The Paris Conference will take place in summer 2011; the date for the meeting has not yet been announced. The Government are committed to building on the progress made in building confidence between the five nuclear weapon states at the 2009 London Conference, and look forward to further engaging with our P5 partners in implementing the forward-looking Action Plan on disarmament agreed at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010.

Syria: Human Rights

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Syrian counterpart on Syria's human rights record. [43171]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Syria's human rights record with both President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem during his visit to Damascus in January 2011.

We also continue to raise human rights issues at every available opportunity, at both ministerial and official level, with the Syrian authorities as demonstrated by my recent public statement on the imprisonment of the 19 year old Syrian blogger, Tal al-Mallouhi. We also look to increase the impact of our statements by working closely with EU partners in securing EU statements on human rights such as recent statements on Tal al-Mallouhi and human rights defender, Muhannad al-Hassani.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Official Residences

Jon Trickett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the official residence at his disposal in the latest period for which figures are available. [43216]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Chevening House is owned and administered by a private trust. Some residual costs are met by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider including high quality granite aggregate as an exempt product in respect of the aggregates levy. [44395]

Justine Greening: The aggregates levy was introduced in 2002 to internalise the environmental costs of aggregate extraction and to encourage the use of recycled aggregate and alternative materials rather than virgin extracted aggregate. All decisions on tax are a matter for the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Banks: EU Action

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects negotiations on EU banking liquidity rules under Basel III provisions to be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [44340]

Mr Hoban: The European Commission has announced that it expects to adopt a proposal to amend the Capital Requirements Directive by early summer 2011 and we expect this to include the introduction of an EU banking liquidity framework. We expect the negotiation to be concluded in time to meet the G20 endorsed timeline of implementation into our national laws and regulations starting on 1 January 2013 and being fully phased in by 1 January 2019.

During this transitional period the Basel Committee has agreed that both the liquidity coverage ratio and the net stable funding ratio will be subject to an observation period and will include a review clause to address any unintended consequences. After an observation period beginning in 2011, the liquidity coverage ratio, including any revisions, will be introduced on 1 January 2015. The net stable funding ratio, including any revisions, will move to a minimum standard by 1 January 2018. We expect the European Commission to conduct its own reviews appropriate to this time scale.

Banks: Regulation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of the banking sector on the offsetting of losses incurred since autumn 2008 against banks' tax liabilities. [43067]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers have met with a wide range of interested parties to discuss various aspects of financial sector taxation since the formation of the Government.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Sir John Vickers was consulted during negotiations on Project Merlin; and whether any correspondence was exchanged between him and HM Treasury. [44339]

Mr Hoban: From the start of the Merlin discussions the Government was clear with all the parties that nothing, including references to a level playing, pre-judges the outcomes of the Independent Commission on Banking. The Independent Commission on Banking was informed of the reference to the Commission in the Government's response to the agreement undertaken by the banks in Project Merlin.

Business: Government Assistance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he is taking to address the finance gap for small and medium-sized enterprises; and whether the Venture Capital Trusts scheme is included in these plans; [44437]

(2) what his Department's estimate is of the change to the size of the finance gap facing small and medium-sized enterprises since the start of the economic downturn; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the finance gap on the UK economy. [44438]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to ensuring that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can access a diverse range of sources of finance, including equity finance, to invest and grow.

We are aware that there continues to be an 'equity gap' ranging up to £2 million for SMEs seeking early-stage finance and up to £10 million for those seeking growth capital. This financing gap has deepened over the past two years, with early-stage investment, in particular, decreasing by 32% in 2009.

Improving the supply of growth capital would allow funds to be released for capital investment as well as for investment in IP, software and skills.

To address this, we announced in the "Financing Business Growth" paper last November, an additional £200 million of funding for the Enterprise Capital Funds programme for equity finance of up to £2 million to small innovative companies with high growth potential. We have also worked with the UK banks to set up a £2.5 billion bank-led Business Growth Fund for growth capital between £2 million and £10 million for established businesses.

In addition, the Government have in place two tax schemes to incentivise equity investment into small companies, namely the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and the Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) scheme. Since their introduction, the schemes have incentivised an estimated £11 billion of investment in over 17,000 companies.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of funds provided for assistance with child care costs through the tax credit system in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [44399]

Mr Gauke: The cost to the public purse of child care provision provided through the child care element of working tax credits is around £1.75 billion in 2009-10. For 2010-11 the figure is also around £1.75 billion.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43534]

Justine Greening: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts for HM Treasury and its agencies already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons persons not employed by Government Departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43208]

Justine Greening: It is sometimes necessary for a Government Department to make use of the knowledge or skills of external specialists or contractors. These specialists or contractors may have to spend considerable amounts of time at government premises such that continual escorting and supervision becomes impractical. In such circumstances, consideration may be given to building passes being issued to them, subject to their having an appropriate level of security clearance.

Devolution: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much end year flexibility remained unspent by the Scottish Government in the latest period for which figures are available. [43492]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury published data for all UK Government Departments including the devolved Administrations in the 2009/10 Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper (Cm 7911).

Details of EYF draw downs were included in written ministerial statements made at times during supplementary estimate rounds. Information on Scottish Executive EYF draw-down for 2010-11 was detailed in a written ministerial statement made on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS.

Following the drawdown of EYF in 2010/11 spring supplementary estimate, SE have a balance of undrawn EYF of £26,214,000 resource cash and £8,000,000 resource depreciation.

Hedge Funds

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer has put to hedge funds in the latest period for which figures are available; to how many hedge funds it makes payments; and how much it received from hedge funds in each year since the first such payment was made. [43203]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury operates four Exchequer Funds: the Consolidated Fund, National Loans Fund, the Contingencies Fund and the Exchange Equalisation Account. The Debt Management Office operate a further Exchequer Fund—the Debt Management Account. These Funds do not and have not transacted with any hedge funds.

Income Tax: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the preparedness of HM Revenue and Customs to implement the proposed Scottish rate of income tax. [43065]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is confident that it can deliver a Scottish rate of income tax. The facility to do this is already largely built into employers and HMRC's IT systems for the Scottish Variable Rate. The Scottish rate of income tax is planned to take effect from 2016-17 which gives five years for HMRC to discuss the detailed implementation with the representative bodies, and complete the design work and the remaining development.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of business groups in Scotland on the operation of the proposed Scottish rate of income tax. [43066]

Mr Gauke: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I jointly chair a High Level Group on the implementation of the Scotland Bill. Membership includes representatives from CBI Scotland, the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses Scotland, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, and the Scottish Chambers of Commerce.

The group also brings in expertise from bodies such as Chartered Institute of Taxation, the Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland, the Law Society Scotland and the payroll profession. The High Level Group has met three times since July 2010.

Revenue and Customs: Advisory Services

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism he has put in place to ensure that staff who advise the public on child tax credits are in possession of regularly updated information on changes to the administration of such credits. [43151]

Mr Gauke: Advisers working on the Tax Credits Helpline have access to on-line support and advice tools to help them in answering customers' questions. This is kept up to date and advisers are informed when changes are made to the tax credit system or when this guidance is amended.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs plans to reply to the letters from John Brace, a constituent of the hon. Member for Birkenhead. [44147]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs replied to Mr Brace on 16 November 2010 and on the 11 January 2011. A further response was sent to the right hon. Member about this constituent, on 25 February 2011.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Financial Services Authority to publish its report on the conduct of Royal Bank of Scotland prior to its failure in October 2008. [42558]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* In his letter to the Chair of the Treasury Select Committee of 15 December 2010, Lord Turner, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), proposed producing a publishable report on lessons to be learned both from the decisions made by the Board and Executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and from any failings of the supervisory approach in place at that time. In order to publish such a report, the FSA consider they would need permission from RBS and other individuals to use confidential information provided by them in the course of the supervisory investigations now concluded, as well as those to whom the information relates.

Lord Turner suggested delivering the report to the Government and the Treasury Select Committee by the end of March. The Government welcome this proposal and look forward to the FSA's publication in the spring.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue to the Exchequer from *(a)* tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions attributable to the solar photovoltaic industry since the date of implementation of the feed-in tariff scheme. [43348]

Mr Gauke: The information required to answer this question is not available.

Taxation

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the proportion of revenue raised from *(a)* direct, *(b)* indirect and *(c)* all taxation upon (i) non-retired and (ii) retired households in each income decile in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [43084]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what his estimate is of the proportion of revenue raised from (a) direct, (b) indirect and (c) all taxes for (i) non-retired and (ii) retired households in each income decile in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (43084).

The ONS does not publish data on the proportion of revenue raised from taxes by income decile but does estimate the average amount of direct and indirect taxes paid per household, per year. These estimates, for both retired and non-retired households, are based on data from the Living Costs and Food Survey and are reported in the ONS article "The effects of taxes and benefits on household income". The latest data for 2008/09 are in the attached table.

Table 1: Average direct[1] and indirect[2] taxes by decile groups of non-retired and retired[3] households, 2008-09, United Kingdom

Average per household (£ per year)

Decile groups ranked by equivalised disposable income[4]

	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Non-retired households											
Number of households (Thousand)											19,096
Total direct taxes	1,243	1,879	3,406	4,860	6,908	7,811	9,947	12,577	15,591	25,485	8,971
Total indirect taxes	3,338	3,654	4,407	4,627	5,063	5,341	6,037	6,618	6,717	8,461	5,426
All taxes	4,581	5,533	7,813	9,487	11,971	13,152	15,984	19,195	22,308	33,946	14,397

Table 1: Average direct[1] and indirect[2] taxes by decile groups of non-retired and retired[3] households, 2008-09, United Kingdom

Average per household (£ per year)

Decile groups ranked by equivalised disposable income[4]

	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Retired households											
Number of households (Thousand)											6,778
Total direct taxes	1,083	806	1,174	1,066	1,261	1,318	1,819	2,406	3,160	7,195	2,129
Total indirect taxes	2,028	1,818	2,116	2,372	2,352	2,371	2,885	3,036	3,371	5,738	2,809
All taxes	3,111	2,624	3,290	3,438	3,613	3,689	4,704	5,442	6,531	12,933	4,938

[1] Includes income tax less tax credits, employees' National Insurance contributions, council tax and Northern Ireland rates less council tax benefit/rates rebates.

[2] Includes duties on alcoholic drinks, tobacco, petrol, oil, betting; VAT; customs (import) duties; motor vehicle duties; air passenger duties; insurance premium tax; driving licenses; television licenses; stamp duties; Camelot—payments to National Lottery Distribution Fund, and estimated Intermediate taxes.

[3] Retired households are those where the combined income of retired members amounts to at least half the total gross income of the household, where a retired person is defined as anyone who describes themselves as 'retired' or anyone over minimum national Insurance pension age describing themselves as 'unoccupied' or 'sick or injured but not intending to seek work'.

[4] The income decile groups are constructed using disposable household income, adjusted (or "equalised") for household size and composition, as a proxy for standard of living. The decile groups are constructed separately for non-retired and retired households using the McClements equalisation scale.

Source:
Living Costs and Food survey, Office for National Statistics

VAT: Charities

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much valued added tax was paid on goods and services by *(a)* charities and *(b)* charities providing healthcare services in each year since 2005. [43435]

Mr Gauke: Information is not available to assess accurately the amount of VAT paid by charities.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43238]

Justine Greening: The Treasury recognises the benefits of volunteering and is committed to supporting staff who become involved in voluntary activities. To support this, HM Treasury staff may take one day paid special leave a year in order to undertake any work in the voluntary sector.

The Treasury provides information on payroll giving to staff on its internal website. In addition representatives from Payroll Giving In Action visit HM Treasury on an annual basis to promote payroll giving.

Working Tax Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of changing the eligibility threshold for working tax credit for couples from 24 hours worked per week to 16 hours worked per week in each of the next four years. [43299]

Mr Gauke: The change in the eligibility threshold for working tax credit for couples with children from 16 hours per week to 24 hours per week announced at the Spending Review 2010 is due to take place in April 2012. The saving to the Exchequer published in the spending review document is given in the following table:

	Saving (£ million)
2012-13	510
2013-14	510
2014-15	510

More information can be found at the following link:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: English Language

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of people studying English as a result of the reduction in public funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [41391]

Mr Hayes: Under the new arrangements, full Government funding will be provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) Group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here.

The Equality Impact Assessment published alongside Skills for Sustainable Growth (November, 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by this Department.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the reduction in funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses on those receiving funding for such courses in the work place; [42182]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction in departmental expenditure to funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses on the promotion of the speaking of English by non-British persons; [42183]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the reduction in his funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses on the promotion of the speaking of English; [42184]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's reduction of its funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses; and if he will make a statement. [42185]

Mr Hayes: Under the new arrangements, full Government funding will be provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the Employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will also continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here.

From August 2011, the Government will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. It is right that workers from overseas, or their employers, should meet the costs of any additional English-language training necessary to enable them to take up jobs here. This change will not affect learners who have already begun ESOL courses

The equality impact assessment published alongside "Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by this Department.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the equality impact assessment on the Government's plans for the future funding of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. [42995]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* An assessment of how the changes outlined in Skills for Sustainable Growth (November, 2010) may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by the Department. I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

Apprentices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeship starts *(a)* in each age group and *(b)* at each apprenticeship level in (i) each of the last three quarters of the academic year 2009-10, (ii) the academic year 2010-11 and (iii) each of the next three academic years. [42256]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts by level and age group (under 19,19-24 and 25+) for each quarter of 2009/10 and provisional data for the first quarter of the 2010/11 academic year, the latest quarter for which data are available.

The apprenticeships programme is a demand-led programme for young people and adults. Government funds apprenticeship training but relies on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities. Therefore, Government do not plan apprenticeship places or set targets. We will have funding in place to train over 350,000 apprentices (at all ages) in 2010/11, though to reach this number employers and providers will need to work together to offer sufficient opportunities, in the context of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the Further Education system.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by level and age group, 2009/10 to 2010/11 Quarter 1[1]

		2009/10					2010/11[1]
	Age	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Full year*	*Quarter 1*
Apprenticeship (level 2)	Under 19	35,700	15,500	19,500	18,800	89,400	37,600
	19-24	20,100	16,200	17,200	19,300	72,800	20,600
	25+	7,600	5,400	8,100	7,200	28,400	18,200
	Total	63,400	37,100	44,800	45,300	190,500	76,300
Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)	Under 19	14,600	3,400	5,000	4,300	27,200	16,600
	19-24	14,900	7,000	8,700	9,200	39,800	15,300
	25+	5,800	3,300	6,100	5,500	20,600	10,400
	Total	35,200	13,600	19,700	19,100	87,700	42,300
Higher Level Apprenticeship (level 4+)	Under 19	100	—	—	—	100	100
	19-24	600	200	300	100	1,200	700
	25+	100	—	—	—	100	400
	Total	700	300	300	200	1,500	1,200

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by level and age group, 2009/10 to 2010/11 Quarter 1[1]

		2009/10					2010/11[1]
	Age	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Full year*	*Quarter 1*
All Apprenticeships	Under 19	50,300	18,900	24,500	23,100	116,800	54,200
	19-24	35,600	23,400	26,100	28,600	113,800	36,600
	25+	13,400	8,700	14,200	12,800	49,100	29,000
	Total	99,300	51,000	64,800	64,500	279,700	119,800

[1] Provisional estimates for 2010/11 are not directly comparable with figures for 2009/10.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. '—' indicates a base value of less than 50.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.
3. Quarter 1—1 August to 31 October; Quarter 2—1 November to 31 January; Quarter 3—1 February to 30 April; Quarter 4—1 May to 31 July.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people began an engineering apprenticeship in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hastings borough council and *(c)* Hastings and Rye constituency in 2009-10. [42285]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by young people (aged under 19) on an engineering framework in England and Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency in the 2009/10 academic year. We hold data only at local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by young people (aged under 19) on an engineering framework in Hasting and Rye constituency and England, 2009/10

Geography	*Apprenticeship starts*
Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency	10
England	7,800

Notes:

1. Figures for England are rounded to the nearest 100. Figures for parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. The England figure includes those learners studying in England where the postcode is not known or is outside of England.
4. We hold data only at local education authority and parliamentary constituency levels.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the administrative and regulatory barriers to employers taking on apprentices; and what steps he is taking to remove such barriers. [42798]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* We are committed to expanding apprenticeships, and by 2014-15 there will be public funding for 75,000 more adults to start an apprenticeship than under the previous Government's plans. This means we need encourage more employers to get involved by both maintaining quality and making the system easier for employers to take on apprentices.

"Skills for Sustainable Growth", published in November 2010, clearly set out the Government's commitment to making the learning and skills system more responsive to learners and employers. We are reforming the system by reducing the number of bodies in the skills landscape, introducing a much simpler funding system, and more proportionate quality assurance and inspection.

In addition, the Department is currently working with a group of larger employers to further examine the burdens imposed on employers when engaging with the skills system. The findings will be reported in spring 2011 and will inform future arrangements.

More generally, this Government are committed to removing avoidable regulatory burdens wherever they arise—the One-in, One-out rule for regulation is beginning to stem the flow of regulation and next month the outcomes from the Growth Review will be announced in the Budget. This will set out what each part of government is doing to enable growth and create the positive business environment required for businesses to start-up, invest and prosper.

Apprentices: Blackpool

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship places there were in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [43158]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency for the academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Programme Starts, 2007/08 to 2009/10

Blackpool North and Cleveleys

	Number
2007/08	500
2008/09	460
2009/10	680

Notes:

1. Figures for Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: North East England

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he has allocated to (a) apprenticeship places, (b) advanced apprenticeship places and (c) higher apprenticeship places in (i) North West Durham constituency and (ii) the North East in 2011-12. [43162]

Mr Hayes: Funding for apprenticeships will increase to over £1,400 million in the 2011-12 financial year: £799m for 16-18 year olds; £605m for those aged 19 and over.[1] We fund apprenticeships on a national basis through the Skills Funding Agency - there are no regional allocations, nor allocations by level.

There are almost 200 job roles at levels 2, 3 and 4 in which someone may undertake an Intermediate, Advanced Level or Higher Apprenticeship. Take-up by level, constituency and region follows employer demand. For these reasons, we are not able to provide estimates of the number, level, and geographical distribution of apprenticeship places or funding as these would be either too broad to be of use or would be potentially misleading.

[1] 16-18 figures: 16-19 Funding Statement, YPLA (December 2010); 19+ figures: Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth, BIS (November 2010)

Cosmetics: EU Law

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to implement in UK law the provisions of EU Directive 76/768 EEC, as amended, on cosmetic products; and if he will make a statement. [43188]

Mr Prisk: The latest consolidated transposition of Directive 76/768/EEC was implemented by the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2008. There have since been eight amending statutory instruments.

Entry Clearances: India

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department plans to use to ensure that migrants entering the UK under the EU-India Free Trade Agreement are highly skilled and highly qualified. [43917]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is still under negotiation. We expect the FTA to include provisions allowing for the temporary movement of certain categories of natural person for business purposes. All these categories are temporary—they are subject to defined durations of stay, after which the person concerned will be required to return home.

We expect that the criteria for allowing entry to the UK for these categories will be modelled on those in the EU's revised services offer in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha Round, and could include the possession of relevant qualifications or professional experience and the satisfaction of minimum salary requirements.

Further Education

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support 16 to 19-year-old education in further education colleges in areas where there is no sixth form provision. [19242]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all 16 to 19-year-olds in their area.

In July 2010, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced a series of steps to simplify the funding system for 16 to 19-year-olds, including giving local authorities a key strategic leadership role to champion the interests of young people in their area. They will do this by maintaining an overview of provision and the needs of young people in their area, identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market.

From 2011/12 core 16-19 allocation budgets for school sixth forms and colleges will be based on the equivalent of lagged pupil numbers thus ensuring that funding more explicitly follows the young person. We are also devolving responsibility to institutions to decide on their curriculum offer and mix of provision so that they can respond to the needs of individual students.

Graduates: Medicine

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial assistance his Department makes available to graduate medical students. [44029]

Mr Willetts: The responsibility for providing student support in England to graduates studying medicine is shared between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which offers a maintenance loan and the Department of Health which pays the tuition fee and provides a means tested NHS bursary for the latter years of study.

Graduates on the accelerated graduate entry medical programme have access to a maintenance loan for the first year of study and a reduced level maintenance loan until they complete their course. From year 2 of the course the Department of Health pays the tuition fee and also provides a means tested NHS bursary.

Graduates studying medicine as a second undergraduate degree can access a maintenance loan for the first 4 years of their course and a reduced level maintenance loan until they complete the course. From year 5 of the course the Department of Health pays the tuition fee and provides a means tested NHS bursary.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the evidential basis is for his Department's proposal to create a generic distinction between state- and independent-educated pupils for the purposes of university admissions. [42679]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Government have no such proposals. Decisions about admission to university are a matter for individual universities, and not for Government. Data about the proportion of state school or college students admitted at each higher education institution has been published by the independent Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) since 2002/03. HESA does not publish information on the numbers of students who previously attended independent schools.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps to reduce the number of student places at higher education institutions which intend to charge more than £6,000 per annum in tuition fees; and if he will make a statement. [43924]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* Our assumption for modelling the new higher education finance system was that the average charge across the sector would be around £7,500 per year. On that basis we would expect the number of student places across the spending review period to be broadly constant. Graduate contributions at that sort of level should replace any reduction in teaching grant. Higher average charges could have consequences for the student finance budget which we have indicated may need to be met from within the overall higher education budget. However, at this stage in the process it is too early to form a judgment on the level of charge that will be set. No institution so far has an agreed Access Agreement in place with the Director for Fair Access which would allow for a contribution to the costs of tuition to be set above £6,000.

Higher Education: Finance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of undergraduate university places that will be funded in each of the next five years. [43495]

Mr Willetts: We expect overall entrant and student numbers to remain broadly constant over the spending review period, but actual student numbers will depend on the response of students and universities to the new higher education funding package.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 489W, on higher education: finance, (1) when he intends to announce the Government's priorities for the remaining teaching grant; [43922]

(2) when he intends to announce plans for further funding for higher education institutions in London to take account of additional costs in London; and if he will make a statement. [43923]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The higher education White Paper will set out our priorities for remaining teaching grant, including funding for higher education institutions in London.

We are developing the White Paper in consultation with higher education institutions, students, employers and other experts and will publish it after we have seen how universities' price setting works this spring.

Higher Education: Leeds

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people normally resident in Leeds Central constituency entered university in each year since 1990. [43098]

Mr Willetts: The number of entrants from Leeds Central constituency to UK higher education institutions are shown in the table, for the academic years 1995/96 to 2009/10. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record, which has been collected annually since the 1994/95 academic year. Information at constituency level is not available for the 1994/95 academic year. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Information on entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges is not available at constituency level.

Entrants[1] from Leeds Central constituency[2] UK higher education institutions[3]. Academic years 1995/96 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Entrants*
1995/96	555
1996/97	565
1997/98	615
1998/99	710
1999/2000	655
2000/01	655
2001/02	640
2002/03	685
2003/04	765
2004/05	840
2005/06	990
2006/07	960
2007/08	1,075
2008/09	1,195
2009/10	1,165

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate entrants of all ages to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures in the table are on a HESA snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Higher Education: Racial Hatred

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will encourage universities to adopt the University of Manchester's model of barring hate preachers from campus through a freedom of speech code of practice. [42048]

Mr Willetts: It is for each institution to make their own decisions about codes of practices, policies and procedures on speakers on campus. Many institutions have existing policies and consult regularly with their local police and other partners before making decisions about speakers. As part of the development of the new Prevent strategy on tackling extremism, we will be highlighting good practice such as the University of Manchester's model and sharing this good practice with the rest of the sector.

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what correspondence he has received on future funding arrangements for innovation centres currently funded by his Department and its agencies. [41763]

Mr Willetts: Many of the existing regional development agencies (RDA) funded centres were established with a clear expectation that they have plans in place to become self-sustaining when their current grants come to an end. As part of the process of transferring RDA responsibilities, including assets and liabilities to other organisations, we are considering the future of some of these centres on a case by case basis. This Department has had direct contact with a number of RDA-funded centres in the course of this work.

Furthermore, as part of the process being taken forward by the Technology Strategy Board to establish a network of Technology and Innovation Centres, some of the existing centres will have had an opportunity to register an interest in forming all or part of the high value manufacturing centre and/or register an interest within the broad thematic areas of energy and resource efficiency; transport systems; health care; ICT; and electronics, photonics and electrical systems.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make an announcement on future funding arrangements for innovation centres currently funded by regional development agencies. [41764]

Mr Willetts: Many of the existing regional development agencies (RDA) funded centres were established with a clear expectation that they have plans in place to become self-sustaining when their current grants come to an end. We are however considering the future of some of these centres on a case by case basis as part of the process of transferring RDA responsibilities, including assets and liabilities to other organisations.

Furthermore, some of these centres may well succeed in their bids for future funding under the process of establishing the elite network of Technology and Innovation Centres that is being run by the Technology Strategy Board.

Announcements on the outcomes of a competition to establish such centres will be made by the Technology Strategy Board following an open and competitive process.

Low-carbon Products: Intellectual Property

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made on removing intellectual property barriers to trade in the field of low-carbon products. [43038]

Mr Davey: The intellectual property system plays an important role in promoting technological innovation and incentivising private sector investment in research and development of low carbon products. Evidence suggests that intellectual property rights are not a barrier to trade in low-carbon products in most cases, although inadequate enforcement in specific markets can discourage businesses from trading there.

We have commissioned research on the role of intellectual property in the low carbon economy and continue to explore practical ways to further stimulate innovation and support technology diffusion. For example, in May 2009 the UK was the first country to implement a fast-track approval process for green patents to help enable technology to get to market more quickly. A number of other Intellectual Property Offices (IPO) including the US, South Korea and Japan have since adopted similar schemes. The UK also provides business support services to companies operating overseas, through UKTI and the IPO, to help overcome potential barriers to trade in specific markets.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter sent by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 21 December 2010 with regard to Mr P Walsh, transferred from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [44171]

Mr Davey: I responded to the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton on 1 March 2011.

Research: Private Sector

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of barriers to private sector participation in the *(a)* use and *(b)* operation of assets funded by research councils; and if he will make a statement; [42167]

(2) what assessment he has made of barriers to private sector participation in the provision of publicly-funded research and scientific services; and if he will make a statement; [42168]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Research Councils UK, *(b)* each research council and *(c)* the Council of Science and Technology on (i) increasing the proportion of his Department's funding for research awarded to private sector organisations, (ii) involving private sector bodies in the delivery of research council objectives and (iii) the delivery of research council priorities commissioning private sector service providers to deliver aspects of a research council's programme. [42191]

Mr Willetts: The Department's budget for science research is distributed by the research councils. They do not award funding direct to the private sector but fund some research in the academic research base that is carried out in collaboration with industry. RCUK and the research councils have been actively developing their business and industry interactions, which is increasing their ability to deliver research council priorities that are of relevance and importance to industry. The Council for Science and Technology was among the bodies which the Department consulted during the allocations process for the science research budget and their response was published at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/cst/docs/files/letters/letter-adrian-smith.pdf

There are a wide range of management and governance arrangements for organisations carrying out publicly-funded research and scientific services. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for the research council institutes (via the funding provided to the relevant research councils) and NPL. Plans for the future of the research council institutes were included in the Allocation of Science and Research Funding 2011/12 to 2014/15 and in the individual Research Council Delivery Plans which were published late last year. The extent to which the private sector should be involved in the management of research council assets was taken into account in developing these Allocations and Delivery Plans. In the case of NPL the laboratory is currently operated on behalf of the Secretary of State by a private sector body.

Responsibility for other organisations carrying out publicly-funded research and scientific services lies with their parent Department. It is for that Department, in consultation with the management of the Public Sector Research Establishment, to decide on the extent to which the private sector participates in their management. This model ensures that there is a clear line of accountability for the management of each research organisation.

Students: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of maintenance and tuition fee loans made by the Student Loans Company (a) to applicants in Coventry and (b) in total in the academic year 2009-10. [43487]

Mr Willetts: In academic year 2009/10, the Student Loans Company (SLC) paid approximately £17.3 million towards maintenance loans for students residing in Coventry when they applied for financial support. This represents less than one per cent of the total amount paid towards students domiciled in England in this academic year which amounted to £2.9 billion.

The SLC paid approximately £13.6 million towards tuition fee loans for students residing in Coventry. Again, this represents less than one per cent of the total amount paid to English-domiciled students in academic year 2009/10 which amounted to £2.3 billion.

Students: Finance

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of graduates resident in *(a)* Hastings borough council area, *(b)* Hastings and Rye constituency, *(c)* East Sussex and *(d)* England who have not made a student loan repayment since the present system of student finance came into operation. [42284]

Mr Willetts: The estimated number of borrowers residing in Hastings and Rye, East Sussex and England who have not made any loan repayments since the present system of income contingent loan repayments came into operation is shown in the following table:

	Latest known address[1]		
	Hastings and Rye (constituency)	*East Sussex (region)*	*England (nation)*
Number of borrowers[2]	700	3,500	397,400

[1] This corresponds to the address given by the borrowers when they opened the last loan account. The borrower may have moved elsewhere since.

[2] The table covers all cohorts liable to repay with at least one tax year processed—ie those who came into repayment during tax year April 2000/01 to April 2008/09 inclusive. It includes borrowers currently earning under the repayment threshold unless they chose to make a repayment.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Students: Grants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of bursaries available to undergraduates in the academic year 2009-10. [43488]

Mr Willetts: The expenditure of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK is collected as part of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Finance Record. Expenditure on bursaries cannot be separately identified from the HESA finance record.

An estimate of expenditure on bursaries by English Universities from their additional tuition fee income is available in "The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance: First Call for Evidence: Submission by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), 31 January 2010".

OFFA estimates that over £350 million was spent by English Universities on bursaries from their additional tuition fee income in 2009/10.

Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students have been prosecuted for non-repayment of student loans in each of the last five years; and how many of those were convicted in each such year. [41707]

Mr Willetts: If former students are resident in the UK, student loan repayments are usually deducted at source by employers through the UK tax system. There are therefore no arrears and subsequently no prosecutions for non repayment for those resident in the UK have taken place.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) has established repayment arrangements for former students who move abroad, whether temporarily or because they live in another country, the SLC asks for information about earnings and gives the borrower a monthly repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan.

Tuition fee loans have been available for EU students since 2006/07. The first main cohort of these students commenced their repayments in April 2010, provided that their income was above the appropriate threshold.

EC Regulation 44/2001 enables the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. These judgments can be enforced against any borrower who has moved to another EU member state, regardless of nationality.

In 2009, the SLC successfully raised 9 judgments against EU borrowers with tuition fee loans who left their course early or studied shorter courses. The SLC enforced some in Scottish courts and some in other EU countries.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average monetary value of a student loan to residents of *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Sevenoaks constituency was in each year since 2005. [43803]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The information is as follows:

Average student loan paid, Kent[1] by academic year

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Tuition fee loan	n/a	1,960	2,450	2,820	2,960
Maintenance loan	3,450	3,600	3,540	3,580	3,630

n/a = not applicable

[1] Based on address at the time of application. Amounts rounded to nearest £10.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Average student loan paid, Sevenoaks constituency[1] by academic year

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Tuition fee loan	n/a	1,960	2,460	2,870	3,000
Maintenance loan	3,390	3,610	3,560	3,590	3,650

n/a = not applicable

[1] Based on address at the time of application. Amounts rounded to nearest £10.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Tuition fee loans were introduced in academic year 2006/07.

Technology Strategy Board

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the reasons are for the time taken to determine the future core budget for the Technology Strategy Board for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [43921]

Mr Willetts: The formal budget allocation to the Technology Strategy Board is tied to its Tasking Framework for the Spending Review period. The Tasking Framework describes the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and wider Government policies for technology and innovation, and its objectives for the Technology Strategy Board for the Spending Review period.

Given recent changes to the landscape of organisations providing direct support and the need to agree administrative savings from within BIS and our partner organisations, this process is only now reaching its conclusion.

Trade Unions: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been on unionlearn courses funded *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly by (i) his Department, (ii) non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible, (iii) European bodies and (iv) other sources from the public purse; which courses or schemes they participated in; and what qualifications were obtained in each such case. [42933]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides funding to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation, which administers the fund on behalf of the Department. The main purpose of this budget is to enable trade unions and Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning and raise skill levels in the workplace. It is not used to fund the provision of education or training courses but enables trade unions and their ULRs to provide advice, guidance and support in order to help workers, particularly those with low skills, access learning opportunities to improve their skill levels.

With the help of the ULF, and supported by unionlearn, trade unions and their ULRs have achieved real success in working with employers and training providers to help people get back into learning, addressing both organisational and individual skill needs. In 2009-10 over 233,000 learners in workplaces across the country were helped back into learning by the ULF and ULRs.

A recent evaluation of the ULF and unionlearn from 2006-09 undertaken by the Leeds University Business School shows that employers as well as workers benefit from union learning activity. Two-thirds of employers say there has been a benefit to their organisation; and 8 in 10 cite a benefit to individual learners, over half of whom improved their qualifications having been helped to access a suitable learning opportunity.

The final report of this evaluation will be published shortly and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to unionlearn to pay for (i) staffing costs, (ii) administration, (iii) advertising and (iv) hospitality in each of the last three years. [42934]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) provides funding directly to the Trades Union Congress (TUC) under an annual grant agreement to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation. The main purpose of this budget is to enable trade unions and Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage a greater take up of learning and raise skill levels in the workplace.

The total amount of direct grant funding allocated by BIS and its predecessor Departments for each of the last three financial years, which includes provision for staffing costs and administration, is set out in the following table.

There are no specified budgets in the annual grant agreements for advertising or hospitality. Any expenditure under these headings is absorbed under other budget headings.

£

Financial year	*Total grant*	*Staffing costs*	*Administration including accommodation*
2009-2010	21,500,000	4,850,137	1,536,548
2008-2009	21,400,000	4,495,536	1,434,463
2007-2008	18,400,000	3,777,263	1,251,187

The TUC also received funding to support unionlearn activity at a regional level from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and a number of Regional Development Agencies all of which received grant funding from BIS' predecessor Departments. Information on LSC and RDA regional funding for unionlearn is not held centrally by the Department and collating this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Salix Scheme: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £337,000 to the Department of Energy and Climate Change in connection with the repayment of energy savings pump priming funds for the Salix scheme. [43586]

Mr Djanogly: As part of the Salix energy savings scheme which is funded by the Carbon Trust a delivery partner of the Department for Energy and Climate Change, the MoJ has made a payment of £337,000 in relation to repayment of energy savings pump priming funds.

Estate Rationalisation Programme

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed an increase of operating appropriations in aid of £19 million in relation to the sale of Abell house and Cleland house. [43335]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice sold Abell house and Cleland house, as part of the Ministry's estate rationalisation programme, the income received over and above the net book value of these buildings was £19 million which HM Treasury have allowed the Department to retain.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what research his Department has undertaken on the potential effect of his proposed arrangements for civil litigation costs on each socio-economic group; [44176]

(2) what research his Department has evaluated on the effect on litigation of excessive or disproportionate costs; and what assessment he has made of the requirement for further research into reasons for recent trends in the cost of civil litigation; [44177]

(3) what research his Department has undertaken on the effect of his proposed arrangements for civil litigation costs on the likelihood of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families on low incomes making a legitimate claim for compensation in personal injury cases. [44178]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned any specific research into any of these areas. However, Lord Justice Jackson conducted a year-long review in this area and published his final report in January 2011. The Government then held a public consultation from 15 November 2010 on implementing the key proposals and sought data to help assess the potential impact. Preliminary impact assessments were published alongside that consultation, "Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Proposals", available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/jackson-review-151110.htm

The consultation closed on 14 February 2011. We are now considering the responses and data received. A final impact assessment will be published alongside the Government response later this spring.

Community Legal Service: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £44 million from his Department to the Community Legal Service; [43580]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £44 million in the voted expenditure offset

by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Community Legal Service. [43598]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £44 million resource funding to the Legal Services Commission relates to a shortfall in provisions, primarily driven by higher than anticipated volumes of public law children cases.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Criminal Defence Service: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £56 million from his Department to the Criminal Defence Service; [43581]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £56 million in the voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Criminal Defence Service. [43597]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £56 million resource funding to the Legal Services Commission relates to a shortfall in provisions, primarily driven by an increase in the number of Crown court case starts and from a delay in income receipts following the introduction of Means Testing in the Crown court.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £40 million to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority; [43578]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £40 million in the voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. [43599]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £40 million resource funding to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority relates to funding to cover tariff compensation payments to applicants.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Departmental Pay

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have an annual salary of over £100,000. [43014]

Mr Djanogly: As at 31 January 2011, 43 employees of the Department and its executive agencies were receiving annual salaries in excess of £100,000.

At the same date, 14 employees of the executive non-departmental public bodies for which the Ministry of Justice is responsible were receiving annual salaries in excess of £100,000.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43531]

Mr Djanogly: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

European Convention on Human Rights

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the proposed accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights. [43099]

Mr Djanogly: The Treaty of Lisbon provides that the European Union shall accede to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Government support the principle that individuals should be able to hold the European Union itself to account for breaches of human rights in the same way as its member states. However, the Government will need to be sure that any accession agreement neither enlarges the competences of the Union nor negatively affects the position of the United Kingdom and other member states in relation to the ECHR. The Government will continue to participate fully in discussions about accession with these principles in mind.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in Council of Europe member states on the margin of appreciation given to member states within the European Convention on Human Rights as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights. [43377]

Mr Djanogly: The margin of appreciation afforded to governments in the national implementation of the Convention rights is not itself defined in the Convention. Instead it is to be found in the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, and can vary from right to right, from case to case, and over time. I have not yet had specific discussions about the margin of appreciation with my counterparts, although where appropriate in proceedings before the Court, the Government argues for the United Kingdom to be afforded a broad margin of appreciation.

The Government are committed to supporting and building on the process of court reform under way in Strasbourg. As part of the reform process, the Government would wish to see a strengthening of the principle of subsidiarity; that is, that the Convention should principally be implemented at a national level. The Government will work with other member states of the Council of Europe and the Court, including through our Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (November 2011-May 2012), to find ways to give further practical effect to this principle in the Convention system.

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his response is to the Interlaken Declaration on the future of the European Court of Human Rights, 19 February 2010; what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Declaration on the UK; and if he will make a statement. [41902]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to supporting and building on the process of court reform under way in Strasbourg.

As part of the reform process, the Government would wish to see a strengthening of the principle of subsidiarity; that is, that the Convention should principally be implemented at a national level. The Government will work with other member states of the Council of Europe and the Court, including through our Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (November 2011-May 2012), to find ways to give further practical effect to this principle in the Convention system.

Homicide: Compensation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much compensation his Department paid to the families of victims of murder and manslaughter in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date; [43557]

(2) Justice how much was paid in compensation to families of victims of murder and manslaughter in each year since 2008. [43833]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In the calendar years specified, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority paid the following amounts to the families of murder and manslaughter victims:

	£
2008	15,534,116
2009	17,905,550
2010	12,171,810
2011	[1]3,050,945

[1] To 1 March

The variations from year-to-year result from variations in the number of claimants and the circumstances of each claim.

Information Commissioner: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a decrease of £750,000 in non-budget spending offset by an increase in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in capital funding to the Information Commissioner; [43501]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £750,000 from the Information Commissioner. [43587]

Mr Djanogly: It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £750,000 resource funding from the Information Commissioner relates to additional capital funding no longer required.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £373,000 to the Information Commissioner; [43579]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £373,000 in the voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Information Commissioner. [43596]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the Estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £373,000 resource funding to the Information Commissioner relates to funding to an increase in depreciation costs on IT projects.

The impact of this transfer in the Estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Legal Services Commission: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £7,500,000 in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission; [43498]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £7.5 million in the voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission. [43595]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £7,500,000 resource funding to the Legal Services Commission relates to pension contributions.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in the reduction in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £175,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Legal Services Commission. [43499]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

According to the spring supplementary estimate this transaction relates to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority not the Legal Services Commission.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £175,000 resource funding to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority relates to additional capital funding to fund the Electronic Workforce Management Project and the Business Continuity Project.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Legal Services Commission: Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of changing the status of the Legal Services Commission to that of an Executive agency. [43015]

Mr Djanogly: The estimated cost of the transition to agency status is a total one-off cost of around £8 million by the end of the SR10 period. This figure excludes employer contribution costs for the Legal Services Commission's No. 4 pension scheme or for funding any deficit in the scheme (should there be one) at the point of transition. This is excluded as this cost will occur regardless of status, and is therefore a timing issue. estimates, again excluding pension costs, also indicate that the change in status will result in ongoing net savings of around £8.4 million per year, by the end of the 2014-15 financial year. This financial saving is in addition to the non-financial benefits of the change in status, including:

clarity of accountability for legal aid (both politically and financially)

one policy voice and one set of priorities for legal aid;

shared priorities and improved collaboration with other criminal and civil justice bodies; and

maximisation of opportunities for administrative efficiencies through greater use of shared and centralised services across the MoJ and wider government.

Mental Health Review Tribunal: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed an increase of £1 million in relation to a transfer from the Department of Health for the Mental Health Review Tribunal. [43607]

Mr Djanogly: Following the implementation of the Mental Health Act 2007, the Department of Health agreed to transfer on a yearly basis the downstream costs incurred by the Tribunal Service as a result of the implementation of the Act. This transfer represents the costs for 2010-11.

Office of Legal Complaints: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £2 million in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding to the Office of Legal Complaints; [43500]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £2 million from his Department to the Office of Legal Complaints. [43584]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £2 million resource funding to the Office of Legal Complaints for premises and information technology costs.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Open Data Project: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £2.5 million in relation to a transfer to the Department for Communities and Local Government for his Department's contribution to the Open Data project. [43601]

Mr Djanogly: The Open Data project is a Department for Communities and Local Government initiative to publish certain Ordnance Survey datasets for free use and commercial re-use by all. This transfer represents Ministry of Justice's contribution to the costs of this scheme.

Operating Costs: Grenadier House and Ashley House

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, (1) for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £1,847,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office of the operating costs associated with Grenadier House; [43336]

(2) for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £709,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office of the operating costs associated with Ashley House; [43337]

(3) for what reason there is proposed an increase of *(a)* £1.847 million in relation to a transfer from the Home Office for the operating costs associated with Grenadier House and *(b)* £709,000 in relation to a transfer from the Home Office for the operating costs associated with Ashley House. [43608]

Mr Djanogly: Following the creation of the Ministry of Justice and as part of the Machinery of Government change in 2007-08, the Home Office transferred a budget to the Ministry to cover the operating costs of staff occupancy within Grenadier House and Ashley House. The transfer of £1,847,000 relates to operating costs in 2010-11 for Grenadier House and a transfer of £709,000 relates to operating costs in 2010-11 for Ashley House.

The Home Office continue to incur the operating costs related to both Grenadier House and Ashley House and invoice the Ministry of Justice in order to recover these costs. This ensures that the Ministry's Resource Accounts capture the full cost of the Department.

Parole Board: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £187,000 from his Department to the Parole Board; [43582]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £187,000 from his Department to the Parole Board. [43585]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the Estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £187,000 funding to the Parole Board for spending on IT Projects.

The impact of this transfer in the Estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed an increase of £770,000 in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Parole Board. [43604]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £770,000 resource funding to the Parole Board relates to additional funding for litigation and training costs.

The impact of this transfer in the estimate has resulted in an increase in non budget funding for an arm's length body and with no overall increase in the departmental expenditure limit.

Pleural Plaques Compensation Scheme: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed an increase of £17 million in end-year flexibility in relation to the Pleural Plaques Compensation Scheme. [43592]

Mr Djanogly: The MoJ is running the extra statutory payment scheme in England and Wales for those people who were pursuing an unresolved legal claim to obtain compensation for the asbestos-related condition of pleural plaques.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), agreed that those Departments, who hold liabilities as former employers, should fund the extra statutory payment scheme.

The Ministry of Justice received £16.5 million resource funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Ministry of Defence, Department for Transport and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The £17 million end year flexibility funding in the spring supplementary estimate represents the Ministry of Justice's contribution towards running the pleural plaques scheme.

Prisoners: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £211,000 in relation to a transfer to the Department of Health for prisoner healthcare costs; [43603]

Mr Djanogly: This represents a transfer of £211,000 from the MoJ to the Department of Health to cover the additional prison healthcare costs associated with expansions at Dovegate/Elmley and Forest Bank.

Prisons: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £14 million in relation to the effects of Interpretation 12 issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee and the treatment of prisons constructed under the private finance initiative. [43600]

Mr Djanogly: Following a ruling by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the change in accounting treatment of PFI Prisons, there is a resource impact on the Ministry of Justice, which increases the overall resource departmental expenditure limit by £6 million. This is made of the decrease of £14 million referred to above and the increase of £20 million referred to in the hon. Member's question number 43606.

This change will also impact the SR10 period.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed an increase of £20 million in relation to Interpretation 12 issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee and the treatment of prisons constructed under the private finance initiative. [43606]

Mr Djanogly: Following a ruling by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the change in accounting treatment of PFI prisons, there is a resource impact on the Ministry of Justice, which increases the overall resource departmental expenditure limit by £6 million. This is made of the increase of £20 million referred to above and the decrease of £14 million referred to in the hon. Member's question number 43600.

This change will also impact the SR10 period.

Prisons: Working Conditions

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisons are required to maintain up-to-date risk assessments of safe systems of work in respect of the safety of *(a)* staff, *(b)* prisoners and *(c)* visitors. [43810]

Mr Blunt: Under Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 42/2010, Governing Governors are required to ensure that an assessment of the risks to which their staff and others who may be affected by their undertakings are exposed, is carried out and that measures are in place to eliminate or control the risk. Others affected by their undertakings includes prisoners, visitors and contractors.

Governing Governors must detail the arrangement for carrying out assessments and managing the significant risks identified by the assessments. Arrangements for managing significant risks will include written safe systems of work.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons have been found not to have up-to-date risk assessments of safe systems of work in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [43811]

Mr Blunt: Under Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 42/2010, Governing Governors are required to ensure that an assessment of the risks to which their staff and others who may be affected by their undertakings are exposed is carried out and that measures are in place to eliminate or control the risk.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not collect information centrally as to whether risk assessments have been carried out or safe systems of work have been implemented in prisons. This will be identified by the audit process on an individual prison basis.

An audit of the health and safety performance of each prison is carried out every two years by departmental health and safety advisors. The audit focuses on the procedures in place for implementing the requirements of health and safety legislation, including arrangements for carrying out risk assessments and implementing measures to eliminate or reduce the risks. A report is prepared for Governors which includes any deficiencies identified during the audit, the actions required to ensure compliance with legislation and Prison Service Guidance and timescales for implementation.

Terrorism: Victims

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £400,000 in relation to the contribution from the Home Office to victims of overseas terrorism; [43576]

(2) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of £200,000 in relation to the contribution from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to victims of overseas terrorism; [43577]

(3) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed an increase of £1.4 million in end of year flexibility in relation to the Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme. [43591]

Mr Djanogly: On 18 January 2010 the previous Administration announced an intention to make non-statutory payments to eligible victims of overseas terrorism through the introduction of an ex-gratia scheme. This has not been implemented and is currently under review as part of a Ministry of Justice review of victim services and compensation.

The £1.4 million end year flexibility funding in the spring supplementary estimate represented the Ministry of Justice's contribution to this proposal. The Home Office (£0.4 million) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (£0.2 million) were also able to contribute.

Women Offender Family Intervention Projects: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed a decrease of £250,000 in relation to a transfer to the Department for Education for women offender family intervention projects. [43602]

Mr Djanogly: Transferring funds is a standard part of the Ministry of Justice's business as usual practices. This usually involves taking funds from one area where they are working under-budget and moving them to an area that needs more resources. This is seen as financial best practice. This can include transfers to and from the MoJ's arm's length bodies.

Where funds are being transferred to other Government Departments, this is because the Ministry of Justice has entered into an agreement to part fund a project or scheme that is being led by another Government Department. Cross-Government working is an effective way of delivering effective, joined up services to the public

This represents a transfer to the Department of Education to cover the education costs relating to women offenders under the auspices of the women offender family intervention projects.

Work Force Modernisation: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the spring supplementary estimates 2010-11, HC 790, for what reasons there is proposed a drawdown of £36 million in end year flexibility in relation to work force modernisation; [43502]

(2) with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, for what reason there is proposed an increase of £36 million in end-year flexibility in relation to modernisation funding. [43609]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice received £36 million end year flexibility funding from HM Treasury to help deliver the ongoing modernisation programme and efficiency savings going forward.

This funding will be used to meet the costs of the following programmes:

Shared Service Programme

The £20 million funding is to part fund the Department's Shared Services Programme in 2010-11. The programme aims to set up a shared service centre, which will benefit the entire Ministry and will help to make financial savings across the spending review period and beyond.

Estates Transformation Programme

The £15 million is to part fund the Ministry of Justice's Estates Transformation Programme. This aims to rationalise the Department's administrative estate by vacating and closing surplus properties and by reducing the scale and the overall cost of the estate. The rationalisation of the Ministry's estate will help in making financial savings across the SR10 period and beyond.

eProcurement Programme

The £1 million funding is to part fund the implementation of the eProcurement Programme, which aims to enable wider procurement savings across the SR10 period and beyond.

Youth Justice Board: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the spring supplementary estimates for 2010-11, HC 790, (1) for what reason there is proposed an increase of £20 million in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure in relation to an internal movement in funding from the Youth Justice Board; [43605]

(2) for what reasons there is proposed a transfer of resource funding of £20 million from the Youth Justice Board. [43497]

Mr Djanogly: It is Ministry of Justice's responsibility to manage the control totals set by HM Treasury and as part of the Department's operational responsibility and financial management, it works closely with its business areas in order to review forecast plans and in year expenditure and uses the estimates process to appropriately align funding to business area forecast expenditure. This is a business as usual practice and includes transfers to and from the Department's arm's length bodies.

As a result of an internal review of forecast outturn plans, the transfer of £20 million resource funding to the corporate centre relates to in year efficiency savings realised within the Youth Justice Board. These have materialised as a result of falling demand for custodial accommodation and decommissioning of places in the juvenile secure estate. To help deal with forecast pressures elsewhere, this funding was re-distributed to other areas of the Department.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 March 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the potential for an increase in *(a)* arrears and *(b)* instances of recovery action following arrears arising from (i) the replacement of council tax benefit and (ii) the 10% reduction in the budget for council tax benefit; [44745]

(2) what arrangements local authorities will be required to make to implement the replacement for council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement; [44747]

(3) what plans he has for the implementation of reductions in council tax benefit for *(a)* pensioner households, *(b)* working age households in work, *(c)* working age households not in work and *(d)* households with dependent children. [44748]

Robert Neill: As the Secretary of State for Communities set out in his written ministerial statement of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 82WS, the Government remain committed to retaining council tax support for the most vulnerable in society and will be taking forward plans for councils to develop local rebate schemes. This reform will support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit. Combined with other incentives—such as the new homes bonus and our proposals for the local retention of business rates—these changes will give councils a greater stake in the economic future of their local area.

Government will want to work closely with local authorities and others to understand the particular issues with a local council tax rebate scheme, and a full consultation on the system of local schemes in relation to England will be undertaken in due course led by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to ensure that the local delivery of council tax benefit or its replacement will not increase marginal rates of deduction above *(a)* 65% before tax and *(b)* 76% for taxpayers. [44746]

Robert Neill: Promoting work incentives is at the heart of the programme of welfare reform. In developing its plans for a new system for local council tax rebate schemes, the Government have been clear that the changes should support the positive work incentives that will be introduced through the Government's plans on universal credit. A full consultation on the new system in England will be undertaken in due course.

Government Procurement Card

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier was in respect of each transaction undertaken by the Audit Commission using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [43840]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 7 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive on leave.

The Audit Commission is unable to provide the information requested in the time available to respond to your Parliamentary Question. However, once this information is collated we will forward the data to you.

Health Care Insurance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission provides health care or health care insurance funded from the public purse to any of its staff. [43864]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 7 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive on leave.

The Audit Commission does not provide health care or health care insurance funded from the public purse to any of its staff.

Health Services

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has paid to Cigna Healthcare and Group Life in each of the last three years; and for what purposes. [43927]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 7 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive on leave.

Cigna Healthcare and Group Life provide dental treatment insurance that employees can opt to take out and pay for through a monthly salary deduction. During 2008/09 the total contributions collected from employees and paid to Cigna totalled £20,956.95. In 2009/10 the amount was £23,463.06 and in 2010/11 it was £23,869.55. Employees pay the full cost of the insurance cover and there is no charge to the public purse.

Home Ownership

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on the continuation of Homes and Communities Agency capital funding to the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme; [43777]

(2) how many homes in *(a)* the London borough of Newham and *(b)* West Ham constituency are available for people participating in the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme; [43785]

(3) how many people in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Newham and *(c)* West Ham constituency are participating in the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme. [43790]

Grant Shapps: Home Ownership for People with Long-Term Disabilities (HOLD) enables people who are unable to access the Government's mainstream new build affordable home ownership programme, for example because they need to live in a specific location, to select a property on the open market suitable to their needs. It allows them to purchase on shared ownership terms with a housing association.

HOLD is an "on demand" product. Capital funding is provided by my Department, through the Homes and Communities Agency, to housing providers to assist them with the purchase of suitable properties on the open market. This means homes are not available in the same way as with the standard new build shared ownership product.

The following table shows the number of HOLD completions in London and the borough of Newham. Information is not held at constituency level.

Area	*Completions*		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
London	3	4	4
of which:			
Newham	1	4	4

[1] End September.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency's Information Management System.

As announced in the spending review, we are investing £4.5 billion to deliver 150,000 new affordable homes. This will include support for the provision of shared ownership property where this is a local priority, including through HOLD.

Housing: Construction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria his Department uses to determine the number of houses to be built in Mid Sussex constituency. [44735]

Robert Neill: Local authorities and communities should decide the number of houses needed in their area, based on robust evidence. We propose, through the Localism Bill, to remove regional housing targets, and to support local decisions through the New Homes Bonus. We will confirm planning for housing policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Local Authority: Pay

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Audit Commission has made of changes in the average salary of local authority chief executives in the last 10 years. [43847]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 7 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive on leave.

The Audit Commission has not made any estimates of the changes in the average salary of local authority chief executives in the last 10 years.

The Commission published "Tougher at the top? Changes in the labour market for single tier and county council chief executives—a discussion paper" in July 2008. This report contains some information about movements in chief executive salaries during the period 1998/99 to 2007/08 and is available on the Audit Commission website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/tougheratthetop.aspx

Promotional Merchandise

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has spent on promotional merchandise since 2006; how many of each item of promotional merchandise were ordered; and how each item was branded. [43857]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 7 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive, who is on leave.

In the five years from 2006 to 2010, the Audit Commission spent £56,982.37 on promotional merchandise. Information about how many of each item was ordered could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The majority of these low unit value items, such as pens, were branded Audit Commission. They were used at a range of external conferences and exhibitions, and also by staff.

Some of the promotional merchandise was branded Oneplace: the public-facing brand for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). It was used to communicate information about the performance of local public services. The work on CAA was led by the Commission on behalf of the six partner inspectorates. Marketing costs for CAA were supported by a grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, whether the Electoral Commission has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43249]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has policies in place to allow staff to undertake volunteering and to donate via payroll giving.

The Commission actively promotes both volunteering and payroll giving as part of its induction process for new starters, as well as through regular internal communications and specialised features on its intranet.

Staff can request up to five days each year to undertake voluntary work, and the commission was awarded the bronze payroll giving award by the Charities Aid Foundation for the financial year 2009-10.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public body for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45037]

Mr Swire: The Northern Ireland Office does not keep records on the amount of expenditure on fish nor on the species purchased. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Where possible, my Department always aims to use local Northern Ireland produce that is in compliance with sustainability standards.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43953]

Mr Swire: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

However, for the period January 2010 to January 2011, the Department incurred costs of £32,746 on its procurement function. In addition a member of staff spends a proportion of her time managing the relationship with our procurement function. During this time, that function established contracts for the Department to the value of £1,124,000. The Department has one executive non-departmental body (NDPB), which does not have a separate procurement function. Neither the Department nor its NDPB have an outsourcing function.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44223]

Mr Swire: Elections in Northern Ireland are administered centrally by the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland (CEO) who is both the returning officer and registration officer for all elections in Northern Ireland. Neither the Northern Ireland Office nor the CEO has awarded any contract to Electoral Reform Services since 2005.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers: Official Visits

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has visited Chequers since his appointment. [44279]

The Prime Minister: The majority of my time is spent in Downing street and I regularly spend time in Chequers and my constituency.

Public Reading Stage

Natascha Engel: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff of his Office he expects to work on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* the introduction of a public reading day within a Bill's committee stage. [41653]

Sir George Young: I have been asked to reply.

The work to introduce a public reading stage and a public reading day, as set out in the Programme for Government and the Cabinet Office's Business Plan, will be taken forward by me, working with Parliament.

A number of staff will work on the public reading stage in various capacities in addition to their existing responsibilities.

Trident

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 296-97, to the hon. Member for New Forest East on the nuclear deterrent, if he will rule out cancellation of the Trident replacement programme from negotiations with the Liberal Democrats in any future hung Parliament. [41735]

The Prime Minister: My answer of 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 295-96, sets out the position.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creative Industries

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* lending to and *(b)* financing of the creative industries; and if he will make a statement. [44876]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport together with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has recently commissioned research into the financing of the creative industries in order to provide evidence for the digital and creative industries growth review which reports to a Budget 2011 timetable.

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43468]

John Penrose: The Department has no plans to relocate its staff and offices to Brighton.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Association of British Bookmakers, *(b)* Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, *(c)* Gambling Commission and *(d)* GamCare on the contents of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 since 11 May 2010; [43053]

(2) what meetings *(a)* on what dates and *(b)* at which locations he has had with representatives of the (i) Association of British Bookmakers, (ii) Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, (iii) Gambling Commission and (iv) GamCare since 1 January 2011. [43054]

John Penrose: I met the Gambling Commission on 14 February 2011 at DCMS offices to discuss the contents of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010. I also discussed the survey results with the chair of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB), Baroness Julia Neuberger, via telephone the same day and had a meeting with representatives of Ladbrokes where we discussed the survey briefly.

In addition, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson) met with the Gambling Commission on 10 January at DCMS offices to discuss sports betting integrity.

Ministers have not met representatives of any other organisations to discuss the contents of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he plans to take in response to the outcomes of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 relating to trends in the level of problem gambling; [43055]

(2) what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 relating to B2 terminals in betting shops; and if he will make a statement; [43058]

(3) what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010; and if he will make a statement. [43059]

John Penrose: The Department is currently considering the results of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 which was published on 15 February.

We will make an announcement about our next steps in due course.

Internet: Social Security Benefits

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* all households and *(b)* households in which at least one person claims a benefit that will have home access to the internet by the time of the proposed digitalisation of the benefits system; and if he will make a statement. [43132]

Mr Vaizey: I have not made a specific estimate of households with at least one benefit claimant. 73% of all households in the UK currently access the internet through one of a variety of mechanisms—broadband connection, dial-up connection via the phone line, mobile, wireless or satellite.

Ofcom

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what professional specialist consultancy services were provided to Ofcom in 2009-10; what the name of each provider was; what the cost per provider was; how many hours each provider worked; and how many staff each provider supplied. [44034]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* Ofcom made use of 31 technical specialist consultants in 2009-10 as part of its overall annual programme of work. The following table sets out the suppliers used, the services provided and the total sums paid.

Information provided to Ofcom as part of a tendering process is commercially sensitive. We are unable to provide a more detailed breakdown of the number of hours worked and staff provided by each supplier since disclosure of this may compromise future tendering processes.

Vendor	*Description*	*Total (£)*
Aegis Systems Ltd	Spectrum technology research	11,759.40
Analysys Mason Ltd	Competition economic analysis	771,521.33
Andrew Chesher	Competition economic analysis	49,335.00
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	Financial analysis, BT Charge Controls	9,400.00
Bentley Associates	Paralegal support	14,638.34
Critical Research Ltd	Diversity research	14,282.13
Deloitte and Touche LLP	Spectrum clearance implementation	177,754.61
Dotecon Ltd	Spectrum auction expertise	213,869.55
ERA Technology Ltd	Technology research	45,783.60
Ernst and Young LLP	Competition economic analysis	61,850.00
Essential Research	Digital participation and Video on Demand market research	153,998.07
Harris Interactive UK Ltd	Online survey	10,420.58
Illuminas Ltd	Research on bundling	29,375.73
KPMG LLP	TV economic analysis	4,684.26
LECG Ltd	Economic analysis	96,915.00
Mediaclarity Digital Ltd	Media research and analysis	23,500.00
Mott MacDonald Ltd	Telecoms research	42,379.54

Vendor	*Description*	*Total (£)*
Oliver and Ohlbaum Associates Ltd	TV Economic analysis	50,963.28
Oxera Consulting Ltd	TV Economic analysis	141,956.14
PA Consulting Group	Spectrum research	105,187.50
Plum Consulting Ltd	Spectrum economic analysis	72,262.50
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Economic analysis	31,033.24
Prodata Partners Ltd	Technology research	42,423.50
Sagentia Ltd	Equipment advice and study	34,603.75
Saville Rossiter-Base	Telecoms and media literacy market research	371,888.94
Steve Carter	Telecoms advice	2,350.00
Synovate Ltd	Telecoms and TV research	110,481.69
The Brattle Group	Competition economic analysis	6,316.38
TNS UK Ltd	TV market research	39,675.00
Transfinite Systems Ltd	Software training	2,300.01
Value Partners Management Consulting	Sports rights analysis, analysis of regulatory changes on local radio	63,410.50
Accounting adjustments	Adjustments to prior year charges and accruals	(40,512.50)
Total		2,765,767.07

Olympic Games 2012: Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions has he had with *(a)* representatives of non-governmental organisations and *(b)* other interested organisations on measures to prevent human trafficking during the London 2012 Olympics. [44117]

Hugh Robertson: Regular threat briefings take place between the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), myself and the Olympic Intelligence Centre, a dedicated body comprising representation from across the Government intelligence and law enforcement apparatus that assesses strategic threats to the games. As part of this, the Department have been informed that we are not currently seeing any evidence of an increase in human trafficking related to the London 2012 games.

However, we remain vigilant and will be continuously reviewing the threat of human trafficking. The Government are determined to deter traffickers from exploiting London 2012 and we are building on the considerable expertise the UK has in tackling this issue. Should the intelligence indicate an increase in trafficking we shall ensure that the appropriate measures are in place.

We regularly engage with non-government organisations with an interest in tackling human trafficking. Government representatives sit on the Human Trafficking and London 2012 Network which shares key issues on Olympic human trafficking issues, including dedicated sub-groups on sexual exploitation and forced labour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Flowers

Barbara Keeley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Commission expects to spend on flowers and plants in 2010-11; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent expenditure in 2011-12. [43712]

John Thurso: Expenditure on flowers and plants in the House of Commons in 2010-11 is expected to be £116,391 and estimated expenditure in 2011-12 is expected to be some £87,400. All areas of expenditure are being scrutinised following the Commission's decision to save at least 17% of the cost of the House's administration by 2014-15.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Mr Evennett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of electoral registration officers in improving levels of electoral registration. [44332]

Mr Harper: The Government have made no such assessment. The Electoral Commission has the power to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. Since 2008, the Electoral Commission has monitored the performance of electoral registration officers (EROs) in Great Britain against a set of standards, and has published annual assessments. The Commission's March 2010 Report 'Performance Standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain' found that "just under 96% of EROs met the 'Completeness and accuracy of electoral registration records' standard this year compared with 85% of EROs last year".

The Electoral Commission advises and works closely with EROs who do not meet these standards in order to improve their performance.

WALES

St David's Day

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what the cost to the public purse was of her Department's St David's Day reception at Gwydyr house on 1 March 2011; [44572]

(2) who was invited to her Department's St David's Day reception at Gwydyr house on 1 March 2011. [44573]

Mrs Gillan: The Wales Office's traditional St David's Day reception has long been used to celebrate our national day and to bring together representatives of Welsh society to build relationships that will potentially bring great benefits to Wales. Representatives of key employers and the big society were invited, along with Members of Parliament and peers of all the main political parties. The estimated cost to the public purse from the event is £780, excluding VAT.

The following hon. Members were invited:

Glyn Davies MP
Brooks Newmark MP
Guto Bebb MP
Alun Cairns MP
Stephen Crabb MP
David Davies MP
Jonathan Evans MP
Simon Hart MP
Roger Williams MP
Mark Williams MP
Jenny Willott MP
Peter Hain MP
Owen Smith MP
Elfyn Llwyd MP
Mark Prisk MP
Vince Cable MP

Wales: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the Spring Supplementary Estimates 2010-11, HC 790, (1) for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £1,300,000 in voted expenditure due to an end year flexibility drawdown; [43339]

(2) for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £636,000 in voted expenditure offset by a reduction in capital expenditure; [43340]

(3) for what reasons there is proposed a switch from capital to resource of £636,000 in Request for Resources 3; [43583]

(4) for what reasons there is proposed an increase of £141,066,000 in grant to the Welsh Assembly Government; [43588]

(5) for what reason there is proposed an increase of £636,000 in voted expenditure offset by a reduction in capital expenditure; [43593]

(6) for what reason there is proposed an increase of *(a)* £1.9 million in voted expenditure in Request for Resources 2 and *(b)* £1.3 million in voted expenditure in Request for Resources 3 owing to an end-year flexibility drawdown. [43594]

Mrs Gillan: I am responding as the questions largely relate to Wales Office expenditure. However, the query relating to the Spring Supplementary Estimates for 2010-11, HC 790,

> "for what reason there is proposed an increase of *(a)* £1.9 million in voted expenditure in Request for Resources 2",

is a matter for the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore).

The comprehensive spending review (CSR) 2007 settlement determined under the previous Government was based on the presumption that the Wales Office would be allowed to bank underspends where they occurred and for those underspends to be carried forward under the end year flexibility (EYF) scheme to be used to meet pressures in later years. The £1.3 million EYF drawn down in the Spring Supplementary Estimates allowed the Wales Office to meet its spending commitments for 2010-11. In addition to the EYF drawdown, the Treasury exceptionally allowed the Wales Office to switch unspent capital provision to meet the pressures in the resource budget.

The increases to the Welsh Consolidated Fund are set out in the following table.

Details of changes to the Wales Office DEL are set out in the written statement laid in Parliament on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 67WS.

Welsh Consolidated Fund 2010-11

£000

	Main estimates	*Changes*	*Spring supplementary estimates*
Expenditure Classified as DEL	15,530,824	108,565	15,639,389
Expenditure Classified as AME	693,635	-322,913	370,722
Total Managed Expenditure	16,224,459	-214,348	16,010,111
Less:			
Non Voted expenditure:			
LA Credit Approvals	163,396	0	163,396
Other Non-Voted	6,078	0	6,078
Resource Non Cash	412,257	81,000	493,257
AME Non-cash	555,560	-323,825	231,735
Total Non-Voted TME	1,137,291	-242,825	894,466
Total voted TME	15,087,168	28,477	15,115,645

Welsh Consolidated Fund 2010-11

£000

	Main estimates	*Changes*	*Spring supplementary estimates*
Voted receipts:			
Contributions from the National Insurance Fund	-953,184	58,807	-894,377
NDR Receipts	-881,810	14,810	-867,000
Total	-1,834,994	73,617	-1,761,377
Plus:			
Housing Stock Transfer—Blaenau Gwent	45,000	-1,728	43,272
Housing Stock Transfer—Gwynedd	17,329	0	17,329
Housing Stock Transfer—Neath/Port Talbot	0	40,700	40,700
Total grant to Welsh Consolidated Fund	13,314,503	141,066	13,455,569
Wales Office	3,634	1,936	5,570

JUSTICE

Bill of Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review Sections 2 and 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998 as part of his plans to establish a British bill of rights. [44008]

Mr Djanogly: In our Programme for Government, we made clear our intention to establish a commission to investigate the creation of a Bill of Rights in the UK which

> "incorporates and builds on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, ensures that these rights continue to be enshrined in British law, and protects and extends British liberties."

A statement about the establishment of this commission, including its terms of reference, will be made to Parliament shortly.

Coroners: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on training for coroners in 2009-10; and how much was budgeted for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [44026]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice spent £116,692.53 on training for coroners in 2009-10. In 2010-11 the budget allocated to coroner training is £205,000. The budget for coroner training for 2011-12 is yet to be allocated.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* budgeted by his Department's Coroners and Burials Unit for (i) staff costs and (ii) office costs, including training, travel and subsistence for (A) 2009-10, (B) 2010-11 and (C) 2011-12. [44027]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice's budget and spend for the coroners and burials division for financial year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as follows:

£

Financial year		*Budget*	*Spend*
2009-10	Staff costs	972,000	1,027,500
2009-10	Office costs	19,500	15,500
2010-11	Staff costs[1]	625,000	625,000
2011-12	Staff costs	[2]—	—

[1] Estimated.

[2] Not yet available.

Since 1 April 2010, the directorate in which the coroners and burials unit sits has operated a flexible staff resource model, with staff being moved around the directorate to meet ministerial priorities. The staff cost for 2010-11 are thus estimated because they are part of the overall directorate costs. Similarly, other costs are now held at a wider level than this unit so cannot be identified separately. The budget for 2011-12 has yet to be agreed and existing resources cannot be guaranteed.

All costs across the Department will be subject to the 23% cuts announced last October in the spending review.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44345]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice currently has 550 staff seeking permanent redeployment. Of these, 135 have been in the redeployment pool for more than six months. These figures represent staff at all grades including senior civil servants.

While seeking suitable alternative permanent roles, the majority are engaged in work that needs to be done to contribute to the delivery of public services, including core frontline activities, policy and project work and other operational roles.

Homicide: Compensation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether provision for compensation for families of victims of murder and manslaughter is ringfenced in his Department's budget. [43834]

Mr Blunt: Funds are allocated to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) so that compensation can be paid to eligible victims of crime under the terms of the criminal injuries compensation schemes. This includes relatives of those killed as a result of crimes of violence. Specific amounts within the overall allocation to CICA are not ring-fenced.

Separately the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funds Victim Support to provide the national Homicide Service and provides additional funding to support the families of homicide victims through the Homicide Fund.

Following the MoJ's spending settlement, Ministers are reviewing all victims' services and carefully considering where best to allocate funds.

Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the future jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights in England and Wales. [44009]

Mr Djanogly: The United Kingdom was one of the 11 original signatories to the European convention on human rights on 4 November 1950. The United Kingdom is bound by the European convention and has recognised the jurisdiction and agreed to abide by the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights since 14 January 1966. In our Programme for Government, we made clear our intention to establish a commission to investigate the creation of a Bill of Rights in the UK which

> "incorporates and builds on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, ensures that these rights continue to be enshrined in British law, and protects and extends British liberties."

A statement about the establishment of this commission, including its terms of reference, will be made to Parliament shortly.

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government plan to *(a)* sign and *(b)* ratify the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. [43718]

Mr Djanogly: The UK fully supports the need to protect all people from enforced disappearance and was supportive of the aims of the convention upon its adoption in 2006.

However, the convention imposes detailed and complex requirements on those states which choose to sign and ratify it and the Government are considering how the provisions of the treaty might be implemented in the UK.

The UK signs a treaty only once it is confident it can properly implement it and once any necessary changes to legislation have been made so that domestic law is compatible with the treaty.

Juries

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the potential implications on the UK system of trial by jury of the judgment of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Taxquet *v.* Belgium. [44101]

Mr Blunt: The UK intervened in this Belgian case to make clear its view that the fundamental principle of UK law that jury deliberations are absolutely privileged and juries are not required to give reasons for their verdicts is in accordance with the requirements of article 6 of the European convention on human rights.

In its judgment on 16 November 2010 the Grand Chamber found that

> "the Convention does not require jurors to give reasons for their decision and that Article 6 does not preclude a defendant from being tried by a lay jury even where reasons are not given for the verdict."

The Government are pleased by the approach taken by the Court, which does not indicate any need for changes to the UK systems of trial by jury.

Juries: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in the London borough of Bexley *(a)* were summoned for and *(b)* undertook jury service in each of the last three years. [44129]

Mr Djanogly: The following table details on a national level basis for each calendar year from 2007 to 2009, the following:

(a) how many people have been required for jury service;

(b) how many people have been supplied to the court for jury service.

Jury Central Summoning Bureau figures, 2007-09

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Total number of summons issued	412,666	416,689	396,631
Total number of jurors supplied to the court	182,661	183,506	176,351

Source: Jury Central Summoning Board.

The Jury Central Summoning Bureau (JCSB) is not able to supply the information for the London borough of Bexley as the data cannot be extracted in this way by the computer system.

Residents from the London borough of Bexley could be summoned to one of five different court locations which also covers other postal areas.

Annual statistics on jury summons are published by the Ministry of Justice in the annual command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics". The most recent edition, presenting statistics for 2009, was published in September 2010.

Legal Aid

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases people with frozen bank accounts have been recipients of legal aid in financial year 2009-10. [44271]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record whether a recipient of legal aid has a frozen bank account. A recipient's bank account may have been frozen for a variety of reasons and, although this will be considered in certain cases in relation to a legal aid applicant's financial eligibility, the LSC's management information systems do not have any facility for routinely recording this information centrally.

National Archives

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many files held in the National Archives have been recalled by each central Government department under Section 4(6) of the Public Records Act 1958 in each of the last three years; and what the name was of each such file. [43879]

Mr Djanogly: On average, 10,000 files are temporarily returned to Departments each year largely relating to the conduct of public business. The National Archives has provided figures for files or parts of files requisitioned by Departments during calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Due to the large number of files involved, it is not possible to provide individual file names. However, a file loaned back to a Department is clearly marked as such on the National Archives document ordering system, ensuring members of the public may request to view the file should it have been requisitioned.

Department name	*Number of requisitions (file or part of a file)*
2008	
Ministry of Defence	2,305
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,995
Cabinet Office	1,157
Coal Authority	722
Crown Estates	610
The National Archives	604
Metropolitan Police Service	383
Treasury Solicitors	344
Department for Energy and Climate Change	326
Department for Work and Pensions	322
Department of Health	248
UK Atomic Energy Authority	246
HM Revenue and Customs	227
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	201
Home Office	177
Security Services	161
Ministry of Justice	140
Medical Research Council	98
Health and Safety Executive	92
British Council	79
Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs	77
HM Treasury	67
Department for Communities and Local Government	66
Northern Ireland Office	58
Office for National Statistics	37
Prime Minister's Office	35
The Royal Parks	33
Department of Education	33
Attorney-General's Office	33
English Heritage	29
Parliamentary Estates	28
Natural England	25
Welsh Assembly	24
Royal Mint	24
Office of Fair Trading	23
Crown Prosecution Service	21
Veterans' Agency	17
Civil Aviation Authority	16
British Rail Board	16
Nursing and Midwifery Council	15
Ordnance Survey	12
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	10
Strategic Rail Authority	9
Criminal Cases Review Commission	9
Greenwich Hospital	7
Boundary Commission for Wales	7
Privy Council Office	6
Atomic Weapons Establishment	6
Land Registry	6
Central Office of Information	4
Charity Commission	3
National Audit Office	2
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	1
Total	11,196
2009	
Cabinet Office	1,620
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,283
Ministry of Defence	1,161
Department of Energy and Climate Change	833
The National Archives	472
UK Atomic Energy Authority	429
Crown Estates	379
Office of Fair Trading	358
Ministry of Justice	310
HM Revenue and Customs	280
Security Services	242
Metropolitan Police Service	240
British Council	157
Department for Work and Pensions	140
Home Office	134
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	110
English Heritage	94
Department for Communities and Local Government	80
Criminal Cases Review Commission	72
Welsh Assembly	70
HM Treasury	69
Medical Research Council	61
Department of Health	60
Prime Minister's Office	54
Ordnance Survey	50
Crown Prosecution Service	45
Veterans' Agency	35
Central Office of Information	30
Natural England	29
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	28
Coal Authority	28
Government Communications Headquarters	21
Royal Mint	19
Nursing and Midwifery Council	19
Attorney-General's Office	19
Privy Council Office	18
Office for National Statistics	17

Department name	*Number of requisitions (file or part of a file)*
Parliamentary Estates	15
Treasury Solicitors	13
The Royal Parks	10
Greenwich Hospital	7
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	7
Northern Ireland Office	7
Health and Safety Executive	6
Strategic Rail Authority	4
Higher Education Funding Council for England	3
Government Actuary's Department	3
Atomic Weapons Establishment	3
Food Standards Agency	3
Charity Commission	3
Intellectual Property Office	2
UK Debt Management Office	2
National Savings and Investments	2
Department for Education	2
Palace of Westminster	2
International Whaling Commission	2
Department for International Development	2
Civil Aviation Authority	1
Total	9,165

2010

Department name	*Number of requisitions (file or part of a file)*
Ministry of Defence	1,708
Cabinet Office	1,156
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	874
UK Atomic Energy Authority	780
Department for Energy and Climate Change	582
HM Revenue and Customs	386
Crown Estates	343
Home Office	158
Metropolitan Police Service	157
Ministry of Justice	142
Crown Prosecution Service	117
Department for Work and Pensions	115
Security Services	104
HM Treasury	104
British Council	93
Department of Health	87
Prime Minister's Office	70
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	52
The National Archives	52
Office for National Statistics	52
Government Communications Headquarters	52
The Royal Parks	50
Privy Council Office	48
Parliamentary Estates	46
Department for Communities and Local Government	45
Attorney-General's Office	44
Medical Research Council	39
Ordnance Survey	37
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	35
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	34
Central Office of Information	30
Companies House	30
English Heritage	29
Health and Safety Executive	26
Veterans' Agency	18
Natural England	18
Greenwich Hospital	16
Royal Mint	14
Civil Aviation Authority	10
Coal Authority	10
Nursing and Midwifery Council	10
Strategic Rail Authority	9
Higher Education Funding Council for England	7
Treasury Solicitors	5
British Rail Board	5
Government Actuary's Department	5
Office of Fair Trading	3
Northern Ireland Office	2
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	1
Health Protection Agency	1
Criminal Cases Review Commission	1
Department for Constitutional Affairs	1
Charity Commission	1
Welsh Assembly	1
Total	7,815

Police Stations

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether approved premises in England and Wales are required to have alarm links to local police stations. [44097]

Mr Blunt: All approved premises in England and Wales provide staff with personal alarms which in some way link to local police stations. The most common arrangement is that, if a staff member activates their personal alarm, this alerts a call centre, which in turn contacts the approved premises by telephone to confirm whether an emergency has occurred. If there is no response, it is assumed that an emergency has occurred and police are alerted. In some cases, there are additional failsafe procedures such as passwords that have to be given before the call centre will accept that no emergency has occurred. Some approved premises instead have direct-to-police functions on personal alarms carried by staff. A minority of approved premises also have building alarm systems which operate in similar ways to the personal alarms.

Approved premises provide for enhanced supervision, particularly of high risk of harm offenders on release from custody. It would be much more difficult to provide that level of supervision, were such offenders to be dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community on release from custody.

Prisoners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any link between income inequality and rates of imprisonment. [44253]

Mr Blunt: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on the link between income inequality and rates of imprisonment. The Department has published information on income before custody, socio-economic classification, employment history and benefit take-up of those sentenced to custody in the latest "Compendium of re-offending statistics and analysis".

Prisoners: Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* pay and *(b)* unemployment pay for prisoners in each year for which figures are available; and how many prisoners received each type of payment in each such year; [44329]

(2) how many foreign nationals received *(a)* pay, *(b)* unemployment pay and *(c)* welfare-related benefits while in prison in each year for which figures are available; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such type of payment in each such year. [44330]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service's central accounting system has a single accounting code for prisoners' earnings. It does not distinguish between: prisoners' pay; unemployment pay; foreign nationals' pay; or foreign nationals' unemployment pay. To separate each of these costs would require examining a high volume of local individual records and would thus incur disproportionate costs.

There is no central record of the number of prisoners including foreign national prisoners who are in receipt of pay or other earnings. To provide this information would require examining local records and would thus incur disproportion costs.

Sentenced prisoners do not generally receive welfare related benefits.

The following table shows the total amount spent on prisoners' earnings over the last five years.

	£ million
2006-07	31.3
2007-08	32.5
2008-09	34.3
2009-10	35.4
2010-11	[1]35.6

[1] The figures for 2010-11 are based on a forecast as at January 2011.

Prisons: Risk Assessment

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what disciplinary sanctions are available to the Prison Service against prison governors who do not fulfil requirements to maintain *(a)* workplace risk assessments and *(b)* safe systems of work; and if he will make a statement. [43875]

Mr Blunt: Under Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 42/2010, governing governors are required to ensure that an assessment of the risks to which their staff and others who may be affected by their undertakings are exposed is carried out and that measures are in place to eliminate or control the risk. Any failure to adhere to this Instruction may be dealt with in accordance with the conduct and discipline policy of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

NOMS' Conduct and Discipline Instruction (PSI 06/2010) provides a range of options for dealing with staff who fail to meet the required standards of behaviour. The primary objective of the policy is to encourage improvement in an individual rather than impose a disciplinary sanction and encourages the use of performance management processes where appropriate.

Each case would be considered on its individual merits, but depending on the nature and potential consequences of the breach, the following sanctions are available: oral warning, written warning, final written warning, regrading, removal from the field of promotion, financial restitution and dismissal from service. In cases where the misconduct is serious but does not warrant dismissal, a combination of penalties can be awarded.

Prisons: Safety

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Health and Safety Executive has been required to investigate an incident in a prison in each of the last 10 years; which prison was involved in each case; whether an action plan was put in place following each such investigation; and if he will make a statement. [43877]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service does not collect central records of visits to establishments by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to investigate accidents.

Prisons: Violence

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what investigations his Department has undertaken into *(a)* levels of violence in prisons and *(b)* the causes of such violence in the last three years; and what the outcome of each such investigation was. [43876]

Mr Blunt: NOMS has completed a wide-ranging review of its violence reduction strategy. The review examined individual approaches to violence management in prisons to ensure that effective practice is shared and built upon.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) routinely records the numbers and rates of assault incidents. Data for the last three years that are available (2007 to 2009) are detailed in the following table:

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Population[1]	80,216	82,572	83,559
Assault incidents[2]	15,272	15,959	15,180
Assault incidents per 1,000 prisoners	190	195	180
Serious assaults on prisoners	1,485	1,491	1,319
Serious assaults on staff	285	283	267

[1] Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009.

[2] Prison violence can be measured in a number of ways. This report focuses on assault incidents including fights.

Notes:

1. These figures are published annually on the MoJ website. The figures for 2010 are currently being verified and will be published later this year.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing returns but the detail is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. Although shown to the last case, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

The responsibility for commissioning and managing the majority of investigations in to individual incidents, including those relating to violence, is discretionary and delegated to local level under Prison Service Order 1300—Investigations. In order to provide the information relating to the outcome of each investigation it would be necessary to contact all Prison Service establishments, ask them to check their local records and to submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Probation Officers: Training

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether probation staff in England and Wales are required to routinely attend health and safety training. [44099]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service has issued national guidance to probation trusts on health and safety matters. This includes specific guidance on the health and safety training that trusts are required to provide routinely for their staff. Probation Trusts are required to have in place arrangements to ensure that all employees (including contractors' employees and agency staff) are suitably informed and trained about the hazards and risks in their working environment.

Probation: Alarms

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether interview rooms in probation trusts in England and Wales are routinely fitted with alarms. [44098]

Mr Blunt: Yes. Interview rooms in probation trusts in England and Wales are routinely fitted with alarms.

Probation: Redundancy

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation trusts in England and Wales have issued standard notice of redundancy letters to probation staff since 1 April 2010. [44324]

Mr Blunt: Information is not collected centrally from probation trusts to answer this question fully. The information that is available to the National Offender Management Service does not distinguish between instances of voluntary or compulsory redundancy. However, the available information indicates that staff redundancies have occurred in 21 probation trusts since 1 April 2010.

Sentencing: Crimes of Violence

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average length of sentence handed down to a person convicted of an offence of breaching an injunction under the terms of Section 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales was in each year since 1998; [44435]

(2) what the average length of sentence handed down to a person convicted of an offence of putting a person in fear of violence under the terms of Section 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales was in each year since 1998. [44436]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty at all courts, sentenced, given immediate custody, and the average custodial sentence length for offences under section 3 and 4 of the Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 1998 to 2009 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Number of persons convicted at all courts under section 3 and 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997[1], sentence breakdown and average custodial sentence length, England and Wales, 1998 to 2009[2, 3]

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*
Section 3												
Found guilty	14	13	22	14	23	22	18	14	15	25	47	27
Sentenced	14	15	21	18	26	24	19	15	13	24	45	27
Of which:												
Other disposals	9	9	15	15	23	21	13	6	7	20	36	23
Immediate custody	5	6	6	3	3	3	6	9	6	4	9	4
Average custodial sentence length (months)[5]	4.3	8.3	4.2	5.7	3.7	3.0	2.8	6.7	3.2	1.5	3.2	3.1
Section 4												
Found guilty	522	513	574	590	639	674	717	806	875	814	839	786
Sentenced	514	519	580	594	635	674	725	805	876	818	820	779
Of which:												
Other disposals	393	397	410	436	453	548	591	648	716	678	650	609
Immediate custody	121	122	170	158	182	126	134	157	160	140	170	170

Number of persons convicted at all courts under section 3 and 4 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997[1], sentence breakdown and average custodial sentence length, England and Wales, 1998 to 2009[2, 3]

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]	*2009*
Average custodial sentence length (months)[5]	9.2	7.9	8.2	9.5	9.4	7.8	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.8	9.1	6.7

[1] The following statutes were used for the corresponding offence:

Section 3

Breach of the conditions of an injunction against harassment

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

Section 4

Putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4

Religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1996 S.32(1)(b) and (4)

Racially or religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) and (4)

Racially aggravated putting people in fear of violence

Protection from Harassment Act 1997, S.4, as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) and (4).

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Regulations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked since 18 November 2010. [44366]

Mr Djanogly: The only statutory instrument which the Ministry of Justice has laid in Parliament since 18 November 2010 which has regulatory impact is the Legal Services Act 2007 (Levy) (No.2) Rules 2010.

No statutory instrument laid since 18 November has revoked regulations that have regulatory impact.

Youth Justice

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people have *(a)* entered the youth justice system, *(b)* left custody and *(c)* been resettled after a custodial sentence in each year since 1997. [43832]

Mr Blunt: Data are available from 2000-01 and the following tables show the number of young people:

(a) aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction for the period 2000-01 to 2009-10.[1]

(b) Custodial episodes[2] ending for under 18-year-olds for the period 2001-02 to 2009-10.

(c) We do not hold data on the number of young people who have been resettled into suitable accommodation after a custodial sentence. Local authorities have statutory responsibilities to accommodate young people in need of suitable accommodation through the Children Act 1989, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and housing legislation.

Number of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction, 2000-01 to 2009-10, England and Wales

	Reprimand, warning or conviction	*PND, reprimand, warning or conviction*
2000-01	89,857	—
2001-02	88,902	—
2002-03	83,266	—
2003-04	88,213	—
2004-05	95,670	97,720
2005-06	107,187	112,730
2006-07	110,188	118,164
2007-08	100,105	107,269
2008-09	79,851	85,354
2009-10	61,422	64,761

[1] These data are taken from the following publication and comes from MoJ's Police National Computer. The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/10-17-first-reprimand-warning-convinction.htm

Custodial episode ending, 2001-02 to 2009-10, England and Wales

Financial year	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Total*
2001-02	5,277	5,828	11,105
2002-03	5,693	5,439	11,132
2003-04	5,796	5,140	10,936
2004-05	5,720	4,917	10,637
2005-06	5,757	5,278	11,035
2006-07	6,098	5,479	11,577
2007-08	5,625	5,563	11,188
2008-09	5,221	5,491	10,712
2009-10	4,740	4,261	9,001

[2] *Custodial episodes ending*

The Youth Justice Board does not count the number of individual young people leaving custody, but does count the number of individual custodial episodes that have ended for under 18-year-olds. Data on the number of episodes ended for 18-year-olds are not available.

An episode refers to a period a young person has spent in custody for a particular legal basis for detention and it is possible that one young person can start or end more than one custodial episode at different points of each year for different offences or for change in legal basis for detention, such as remand to sentence.

The custodial episodes ending includes remand and sentenced episodes ending. Those remand episodes that have ended do not necessarily mean that a young person has left custody as they may be starting a custodial sentence upon the remand finishing.

The information comes from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the level of payments to farmers made as a result of meat controls; and if she will make a statement. [43554]

Mr Paice: No payments are made to farmers as a result of meat controls.

Beetles

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the size of the hazel pot beetle population in the United Kingdom. [43041]

Richard Benyon: The latest estimates suggest that that the UK population of hazel pot beetle comprises five colonies. These are located at sites in Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

Birds

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of predation on the size of the songbird population. [44281]

Richard Benyon: In 2009, DEFRA funded a wide-ranging research review to identify the causes of decline in wild bird populations. This included an assessment of the impact of predation. It found evidence that predation was, at least in some areas, having an impact on ground-nesting species such as seabirds or wading birds of wetland habitats (i.e. not songbirds). Predation was also identified as a potential driver of declines for nine woodland bird species including some songbirds such as bullfinch. Many bird and other animal species are known to predate songbirds. However, despite some studies showing a link [illegible] local declines in some bird populations at some individual sites, the evidence that predation is driving national declines is mixed. In addition, most research treats 'predators' as a single group and further research to better understand the role of individual predators and the known or likely impact of their control is required.

A more recent review undertaken by the RSPB, specifically on predation came to similar conclusions.

Both reports highlight one further important caveat: that there is a strong interaction with land use change—as habitats become degraded, birds are more susceptible to predation. What is clear from the research is that while predation can be important for some species in some areas, key drivers of change are habitat degradation and fragmentation, and in woodland, changes to habitat structure and so this is where our policies are focused. Improved habitat management also benefits the full range of species associated with the British countryside.

Bottle Deposit and Refund Schemes

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of the Prime Minister of 15 September 2010, *Official Report,* column 878, on bottle deposit and refund schemes, what progress she has made in considering the introduction of a bottle deposit refund scheme. [43369]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* This issue is being looked at as part of the Government's review of waste policies in England, which is due to report in May. Those consulted in the course of the review had divergent views on deposit return schemes, which Ministers will need to weigh carefully before reaching a view.

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of her Department to Brighton; and if she will make a statement. [43470]

Richard Benyon: As part of the spending review, all Departments have been challenged to re-evaluate their business delivery structures, including their people and property, to drive out efficiencies wherever possible.

DEFRA is keeping its future people and property requirements under constant review. No decisions have been made in respect of future relocations to Brighton.

Corporate Britain

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* correspondence and *(c)* other contact officials of her Department have had with officials of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on that Department's call for evidence on a long-term focus for corporate Britain. [39592]

Mr Paice: My officials in are in regular contact with BIS officials on environmental issues relevant to a long term focus for corporate Britain.

Dairy Farming: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures her Department is taking to promote uptake of the grassland derogation to assist dairy farmers in preparing for implementation of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone regulations. [43995]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has used multiple channels of communication to remind farmers of the availability of the derogation and how to apply.

The Department worked with key farming organisations before the opening of the 2011 derogation application window on 1 October 2010 so that they could alert their members and encourage them to apply. DEFRA issued an information bulletin on its website and alerted those who follow the Department on Twitter with an update on 1 October 2010. The derogation was also publicised in DEFRA's Farming Link Online newsletter.

DEFRA's Farming Online team issued email reminders to those farmers that received the derogations in 2010. Farmers and growers who met the relevant requirements could apply for the 2011 derogation online through DEFRA's Whole Farm Approach pages during the application window.

Furthermore, the Environment Agency issued a factsheet during the 2011 application period to all farmers that received 2010 derogation. A reminder of the deadline and ways to apply was also included in the October Fertiliser Advisers Certificated Training Scheme quarterly newsletter, 'Fertiliser Matters'. A text message reminder via the Cross Compliance text messaging service was also sent to urge farmers to reapply for the derogation.

DEFRA officials worked again with the key farming organisations shortly before the deadline for applications to provide a further reminder to the farmers through their communications networks.

Dangerous Dogs

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to open the Index of Exempted Dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to owner-led applications. [43423]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is considering a number of options relating to the control of dangerous dogs and improving responsible dog ownership. An announcement will be made shortly.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of her Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42620]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA seeks to follow good procurement practice, drawing on advice issued by Cabinet Office in the publication Principles of Good Employment Practice and professional bodies, and promoting them to suppliers and other stakeholders where appropriate.

We have published and publicised an Ethical Procurement Policy Statement on DEFRA's website which will shortly be updated. Its key principles reflect those in the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply's, "Ethical Business Practices in Purchasing and Supply Management". It will also support other policies of the coalition Government such as delivering the big society and increasing opportunities for SMEs and civil society organisations.

We are also developing guidance to help procurement staff to better embed equality and diversity into contracts, taking account of the Equality Act 2010.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the expenditure on redundancies of public bodies sponsored by her Department in each of the next four financial years. [43715]

Richard Benyon: In autumn 2010 the Department (which includes the core Department and its network of arm's length bodies) estimated that around £190 million (2% of the overall DEFRA budget for the four-year spending review period) would be required to fund voluntary exits and redundancies.

Due to changes to the terms of the compensation scheme announced by Cabinet Office in December 2010, DEFRA is confident that the original forecast of £190 million will turn out to be an overestimate.

Departmental Research

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to assess the value for money of scientific evidence and advice provided by the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by her Department. [42160]

Richard Benyon: Relationships between DEFRA and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are governed by memoranda of understanding. There are two types of NDPBs: executive NDPBs, which deliver a particular public service and are overseen by a board rather than Ministers, and advisory NDPBs, which advise Ministers on particular issues.

Executive NDPBs have their own chief scientists or heads of evidence and their own efficiency targets. Therefore, DEFRA does not routinely assess the value for money of evidence and advice provided by such NDPBs.

With respect to advisory NDPBs, as part of a wider review of its arm's length bodies, the Department has recently reviewed the role and functions of its 18 scientific and technical advisory bodies. The aim of the review was to improve transparency and accountability. The majority of the scientific and technical advisory bodies will become expert committees. They will all continue to provide independent advice but this change will allow for greater co-ordination as the scientific expert committees will work more closely with DEFRA's Science Advisory Council and the Chief Scientific Adviser.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* openness and *(c)* accessibility of scientific evidence and advice that inform her Department's policy decisions. [42170]

Richard Benyon: With regard to the effectiveness of evidence and advice, DEFRA recently commissioned a pilot study to assess how evidence has informed policy decision-making within four case study areas[1]. The study aimed to evaluate the impact of evidence on policy making, rather than evaluate the impact—or success—of policy decisions.

DEFRA's chief scientific adviser (CSA) provides an independent challenge to the evidence underpinning policy decisions to assure himself that policy is informed by high-quality, robust evidence. Where specific issues are brought to the CSA's attention, or where evidence and advice is particularly complex or uncertain, the CSA will assess and give advice on them, to Ministers or senior policy colleagues.

DEFRA's three laboratory agencies (*Fera, VLA and CEFAS) are subject to science audits about once every five years; the most recent series was completed in 2007. These audits have covered all aspects of scientific work carried out at the agencies including R and D and non-R and D to give an independent assessment of quality, balance, scope and appropriateness of the science. The timing of the next audits will depend on the outcomes of the arm's length bodies review.

No specific assessment of the openness and accessibility of evidence and advice has been carried out recently. For core DEFRA, current practice includes publication of all R and D reports on the DEFRA website[2] and encouraging publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Statistics are produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics produced by the UK Statistics Authority[3].

DEFRA has published an 'Information Strategy' on how it will make its data accessible to everyone and routinely publishes large amounts of data, including statistical datasets; DEFRA will soon improve its publication channels to provide greater ease of use and further increase the number of data offerings. DEFRA is also reviewing its data holdings through HM Treasury's Review of Government Data which, when completed, will also lead to an increase in our publication output.

The Government chief scientific adviser (GCSA), after cross-Government consultation, re-launched his "Guidelines on the Use of Scientific and Engineering Advice in Policy Making"[4] in 2010. These include good practice principles relating to openness and transparency, and DEFRA and its non-departmental public bodies are actively working on their implementation.

DEFRA's scientific advisory committees apply the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees[5], which has openness and transparency as a key theme. The DEFRA Science Advisory Council's code of practice makes clear that it operates a policy of openness in line with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations. The Science Advisory Council publishes full information on its website.

Dog and Cat Population

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the effectiveness of *(a)* neutering and *(b)* euthanasia as a means of control of the dog and cat population. [43988]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not conducted any formal research into the effectiveness of using neutering and euthanasia to control the dog and cat population, but I think it is fair to assume that without these methods the numbers of these animals would be much larger.

Illegal Trading: Dogs and Cats

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the monetary value of the illegal trade in dogs and cats in each of the last four financial years. [43021]

Mr Paice: The Government have made no such estimates.

Electric Shock Training Devices

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects her Department's research into electric shock training devices to be completed; and by whom the research will be peer-reviewed. [43422]

Mr Paice: Our research into electronic training aids is due to be completed at the end of June this year. No decisions have yet been made on who will peer-review the research results before they are published.

Fish: Consumption

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on promoting consumption of *(a)* anchovies, *(b)* herring and *(c)* sardines. [43991]

Richard Benyon: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) informs DEFRA of its healthy eating policy and recommends consumption of at least two portions of fish a week, including one portion of oil-rich fish such as anchovy, herring, sardine and mackerel.

However, stock sustainability is an important consideration when recommending the consumption of fish species. DEFRA has commissioned work to understand the potential for encouraging increased consumption of herring and sardines as part of their 'Fishing for the Markets' project—an initiative to encourage domestic consumption of sustainable, under-utilised fish species. The project began last year and research is ongoing. Initial results will be available in spring 2011.

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* Fera—Food and Environment Research Agency, VLA—Veterinary Laboratories Agency, CEFAS—Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

[1] *Note:*

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/docs/policy/evidence-policy-report.pdf

[2] *Note:*

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/

[3] *Note:*

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

[4] *Note:*

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/goscience/docs/g/10-669-gcsa-guidelines-scientific-engineering-advice-policy-making.pdf

[5] *Note:*

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/goscience/docs/c/cop-scientific-advisory-committees.pdf

Floods: Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on trends in the number of householders with homes at risk of flooding refused buildings insurance by insurers after the publication of the comprehensive spending review. [44020]

Richard Benyon: The Government have an agreement with the insurance industry, the 'Statement of Principles', which helps safeguard the widespread availability of flood insurance. If cover cannot be offered on standard terms, then in almost all cases a solution may be found by householders working through specialist brokers.

Following a summit with insurers and other flood risk management partners in September 2010, three working groups have been established to consider how to ensure flood insurance remains widely available after the Statement of Principles agreement expires in 2013. The working groups are collecting data from a number of sources, including on the availability of insurance, and are due to report this summer.

Food 2030 Strategy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to implement the Food 2030 strategy. [40839]

Mr Paice: Food 2030 usefully set the scene and described the key issues facing the food chain. The Government are now taking action to meet their objectives of supporting British farming, encouraging sustainable food production, and helping to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the whole food chain with the aim of ensuring a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food with improved standards of animal welfare.

Forestry Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to appoint the members of the expert panel on the future of the Forestry Commission; and on what date she expects its first meeting to take place. [43019]

Mr Paice: The membership of the panel is currently under consideration. We will make an announcement on the panel's composition as soon as possible and will expect it to meet shortly thereafter.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received from representatives of the rallying sector on the future of land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. [44017]

Mr Paice: In February the chief executive of Motor Sport Association UK wrote to Ministers about the future of the public forest estate in England.

All of the online survey responses to the closed public forest estate consultation questionnaire were anonymous. No emailed representations to the dedicated consultation mailbox were from the rallying sector.

Public Forest Estate: Sales

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what type of land the Forestry Commission *(a)* owns and *(b)* leases in each parliamentary constituency in Northamptonshire; and what land in each such constituency she (i) proposes to offer and (ii) is considering offering for sale. [38560]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The estimated area of public forest estate in each constituency in Northamptonshire is given in the following table.

		Ownership type[2]		
Constituency[1]	*Total area (Ha)*	*Leasehold*	*Freehold*	*Mixed*
Northampton North	0	—	—	—
Northampton South	0	—	—	—
Wellingborough	179	179	—	—
South Northamptonshire	1,796	397	1,256	143
Daventry	98	98	—	—
Kettering	61	61	—	—
Corby	2,064	565	356	1,143

[1] Where an area of woodland crosses a constituency boundary the constituency with the greater proportion of the area has been deemed to contain the whole block.
[2] The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967.

The consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Public Forest Estate

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish a list of the forest sites within the 100,000 acres of land to be sold to which the current consultation process does not apply. [39033]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 February 2011]:* The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed. An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the proposed independent panel to consider forestry policy in England will have access to *(a)* research and *(b)* administrative support from her Department; [43068]

(2) whether the proposed independent panel on forestry in England will consider written submissions from the public; [43069]

(3) whether the proposed independent panel on forestry policy in England will meet in public; and whether minutes of the meetings of the panel will be published. [43070]

Mr Paice: Administrative arrangements for the panel are still under consideration.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what dates she met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss her policy on the disposal of land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission; [43375]

(2) whether she has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on consequential changes in programme funding for her Department following her recent decision on the disposal of land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. [43376]

Mr Paice: No such meetings or discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer have taken place.

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of using Section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to dedicate routes within the public forest estate for cyclists and horse riders. [43561]

Mr Paice: An independent panel is being established to advise on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England, on the role of the Forestry Commission and on the role of the public forest estate.

It will report its finding in the autumn after which we will make an assessment of any potential changes.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of *(a)* commercial and *(b)* heritage woodland in each local authority area is owned (i) by the Forestry Commission and (ii) privately. [44338]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* Only the public forest estate managed by the Forestry Commission in England was classified into the four broad but overlapping types of woodland (large commercial, small commercial, heritage and multi-purpose) as detailed in the consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England.

The illustrative map that was produced has been withdrawn following an announcement by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Spelman) on 17 February that the consultation would end.

An independent panel of experts will now examine forestry policy in England and report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure diversity of expertise in the membership of the independent panel of experts convened by her Department to examine forestry policy; and whether it will include experts on heritage and archaeology. [44726]

Mr Paice: The panel's membership is still being considered. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations, alongside representatives of the forestry industry. It will draw on a broad range of expertise to inform its work.

Public Forest Estate: Access

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 922W, what assessment she has made of potential changes in permissive access for cyclists and equestrians to forests and woodlands managed by the Forestry Commission as a result of the deliberations of her expert panel on the Forestry Commission. [43990]

Mr Paice: The independent panel being established to advise on the future direction of forestry policy in England will report with its findings this autumn after which we will make an assessment of any potential changes. The panel membership and terms of reference have not yet been finalised. It will include representatives of key environmental and access organisations alongside representatives of the forestry industry.

Public Forest Estate

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in the North East. [43160]

Mr Paice: Since the beginning of October last year, we have received thousands of representations on the sale of the public forest estate.

We are not able to break these representations down into those that specify the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in the North East.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in the North East. [43161]

Mr Paice: I have not had any recent discussions about the sale of any individual forest or wood managed by the Forestry Commission in the North East. Implementing previous sales have been the responsibility of the Forestry Commission. All new sales have been suspended as announced by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 11 February 2011.

Landfill

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the costs to the public purse arising from *(a)* the closure of landfill sites and *(b)* the opening of waste management facilities in the next 10 years. [43416]

Richard Benyon: The information is as follows:

(a) Nearly all landfill sites are operated by private waste management companies. The costs of compliance, aftercare and closure therefore fall to the operators and not the public purse, consistent with the polluter pays principle.

(b) £2 billion of private finance initiative (PFI) credits have been allocated to 32 Waste PFI projects which have a total contract value of £30.2 billion. There are also a number of public-private partnership (PPP) and merchant facilities either built or planned which are privately financed. DEFRA does not provide funds to these projects from the public purse, and they are therefore not obliged to inform us of commercial or contractual data.

Maize: Imports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of instances of the importation of maize without an EU import licence in each of the last four years. [43296]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

HMRC tell me that from 1 March 2007 to 28 February 2011, where EU import licences were in operation, the number of declarations for release to free circulation for maize accepted without such a licence were as follows:

	Declarations
2007	83
2008	80
2009	89
2010	102
2011	15

These declarations were accepted without a licence because they fell below the regulatory net quantity above which such a licence is required.

Members: Correspondence

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to reply to the letter reference MM/JH/14/01/2011 of 14 January 2011 from the hon. Member for Bridgend. [44654]

Richard Benyon: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my noble Friend Lord Henley, responded to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend on 28 February.

Nature Conservation

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which *(a)* civil society and *(b)* other organisations in Yorkshire and the Humber the Forestry Commission in Yorkshire and the Humber has had contact in respect of (i) wildlife conservation, (ii) access or use of its woodlands, (iii) education and (iv) other issues in the last 12 months. [38693]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission's managers of the public forest estate in Yorkshire and the Humber have recorded 105 contacts with civil society and 280 contacts with other organisations in the last 12 months. Some of these were for more than one reason. I have placed a list of these contacts, including the reason for contact, in the Library of the House.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she made of the level of slurry storage capacity in the dairy farming sector in preparation for the implementation of the nitrate vulnerable zone rules. [43295]

Richard Benyon: Supporting paper G4 (a report written by Entec UK Ltd) to the 2007 consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive informed the making of the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008. It estimated that under the option subsequently chosen, 7,099 dairy farms would need to fulfil the slurry storage requirements.

As the area eventually designated was 62%, rather than the 70% on which the estimates were based, the actual impact is likely to have been less than this.

This was an estimate for England only, as this is the extent of the coverage of the regulations.

Pet Advertising Advisory Group

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the next meeting of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group to take place. [43022]

Mr Paice: The Government are not responsible for the Pet Advertising Advisory Group, although officials have attended meetings. We understand that the group has decided that it has served its purposes and has not arranged any further meetings. DEFRA is grateful for the work of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group took place in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and how many such meetings have taken place in 2011 to date. [43023]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is not a formal member of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group, although officials have attended some of the group's meetings. DEFRA, therefore, is not in a position to provide details as to the precise number of meetings held by the group.

Rural Areas: Rallying

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the contribution of rallying to the rural economy in each of the last four years. [44150]

Richard Benyon: The Government recognise the local economic benefits that sports, including rallying, can generate for rural areas. However, no assessment has been carried out of the specific contribution of car rallying to the overall rural economy.

Salmon: Exports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much farmed salmon was exported from the UK to the People's Republic of China in each of the last four years. [43046]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold this information centrally.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does make available data that include salmon exports, available at:

www.uktradeinfo.com

but a breakdown of exports of farmed salmon is not available.

Salmon: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effects of levels of production of farmed salmon in Scotland on levels of sea lice; [43047]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effects of sea lice on farmed salmon stocks in Scotland in each of the last four years; [43048]

(3) if she will assess the potential effects on the welfare of wild salmon of an increase in the levels of production of farmed salmon in Scotland. [44010]

Richard Benyon: The Scottish Government, through Marine Scotland Science, has in place a research programme assessing the potential impacts of salmon farming on wild salmonids.

Escapes of farmed salmon in 2010 were the lowest since public reporting began, while the Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change indicated recently a desire to consult on recommendations from an expert group, which would lead to further improvement in the control of sea-lice on salmon farms.

Sewers

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of sewers which are not adopted by a water authority. [43717]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's 2008 impact assessment of proposals for the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains into the ownership of water and sewerage companies estimated that there are approximately 184,000 km of sewers and 36,000 km of lateral drains that connect to and affect the public sewerage system, but which have not been adopted by water and sewerage companies and are not their responsibility. In addition, some 208,000 km of sewers and lateral drains do not connect to the public sewerage system at all and remain the responsibility of their respective owners.

Supermarkets: Procurement

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will examine the effects on the supply of food of contracts with supermarkets which require food that is fit for human consumption to be destroyed; and if she will make a statement. [44475]

Mr Paice: Government and industry are working to prevent food waste wherever possible throughout manufacturing and supply and in the home. For example, the Courtauld Commitment includes ambitious waste prevention targets and many industry members are partners in the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

There are no legal provisions which would require retailers to destroy unsold food that is fit for human consumption. We encourage industry to work with charities such as FareShare to ensure that good food does not go to waste. However, for reasons of safety, food which has passed its 'use by' date is considered unfit for human consumption.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43237]

Richard Benyon: Community volunteering and payroll giving form part of the Department's wellbeing and corporate social responsibility strategy that its management board implemented at the end of 2007.

DEFRA offers all its employees one day paid special leave a year for volunteering, either individually or as part of a team. It publicises details in various ways, in accordance with local practice. These include the staff handbook and dedicated Intranet web pages that provide comprehensive information on how to volunteer, its benefits and case study examples. In addition there are many voluntary public service appointments that attract paid special leave, with specified annual limits, such as justice of the peace and school governor.

The Department also publishes information and guidance on payroll giving through the staff handbook and the intranet. This encourages employees to take part in the Give as you Earn scheme, explains the process involved and provides access to details of over 4,000 charities that are registered on the Payroll Giving database.

Whales: Conservation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking ahead of the meeting of the International Whaling Commission in July 2011 to ensure maximum international opposition to commercial whaling. [44375]

Richard Benyon: Ahead of this year's International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting, I plan to discuss our support for the moratorium on commercial whaling with a range of environmental and other organisations, and with anti-whaling countries.

DEFRA officials will be meeting the 25 EU IWC contracting Governments and other anti-whaling countries in the build-up to the 63rd IWC annual meeting (IWC63).

We will also be working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to raise the issue with key IWC members prior to IWC63, encouraging support for the moratorium and for the UK's position to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of whales.

CABINET OFFICE

Asylum

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of stateless people residing in the UK. [44818]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of stateless people residing in the UK (44818).

The Office for National Statistics does not have the information necessary to make an estimate of the number of stateless people in the UK.

Big Society Bank

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to inform holders of potential dormant accounts prior to funds being redistributed by the Big Society bank. [39848]

Mr Hurd: A distribution of funds to the Big Society Bank will not affect the rights or ability of dormant account holders to reclaim their money.

The British Bankers Association (BBA), the Building Societies Association (BSA) and National Savings and Investment (NS&I) provide a free service for customers to trace lost accounts at:

www.mylostaccount.org.uk

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received on the legality of using funds from dormant bank accounts to fund the proposed Big Society Bank. [40336]

Mr Hurd: The Treasury Solicitor's department has been instructed to provide legal advice.

Any spending direction to the Big Lottery Fund to distribute money from dormant accounts to the Big Society Bank will be made using the provisions of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008, and the Transfer of Functions (Dormant Accounts) Order 2010.

Census

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Office for National Statistics has taken to engage with community media to promote the 2011 Census; and what budget has been assigned for publicising the Census through local and community media. [43253]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps ONS has taken to engage with community media to promote the 2011 Census; and what budget has been assigned for publicising the census through local and community media (43253).

As part of the overall census communication and engagement programme, nearly 200 census area managers and community advisors are contacting community and local media to raise awareness of the 2011 Census. Many media organisations have responded positively, recognising the importance of encouraging their audience to participate, and covering the census in news and editorial features.

There is no specific budget for local and community media as the budget is defined by the audience that the advertising reaches.

Charities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen the relationship between charities and the state. [42145]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is currently considering applications to its Strategic Partners Transition programme. This will help ensure that key national representative organisations can efficiently and effectively represent the 'voice' of the VCSE sector to Government, and provide Government with a conduit to speak to the sector.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 88W, on charities: public expenditure, what progress has been made in examining the exposure of the third sector to public spending reductions and ways of mitigating potential impacts. [42201]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to supporting the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to move forward at this difficult time, and continue to work closely with partners in the sector to understand and mitigate the impacts of any spending reductions. This includes measures to:

Deliver transparency and accountability, so that, for the first time, the sector has clear and timely information on Government funding.

Support best practice, to ensure local funding decisions are made wisely, and in conjunction with the sector and local communities.

Open up public services, incorporating consultation with sector organisations and commissioners on Modernising Commissioning.

Support the sector through the transition, by investing £100 million in the Transition Fund to create breathing space for public service providers.

Develop the Big Society Bank to help sector organisations access much needed additional resources and investment.

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the basis for any link between habitual television watching and civic disengagement. [42125]

Mr Hurd: The Department has no current plans to conduct an assessment of the link between habitual television watching and civic disengagement. The Giving Green Paper, published in December 2010, compared the average amount of time devoted to volunteering and watching television on a weekly basis. However, the paper did not seek to establish a relationship between these two activities.

Mortality Rates: Income Deaths

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of age-adjusted mortality rate for each income decile. [44095]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of age-adjusted mortality rate for each income decile (44095).

The tables attached provide the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, for each income deprivation decile, in England (Table 1) and in Wales (Table 2), for 2009 (the latest year available).

Income deprivation deciles are based on an estimate of the proportion of people with low income in the area of usual residence of the deceased rather than on the individual's own actual income, which is not recorded at death registration. Income scores for areas in England and Wales are available as part of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 and Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008 respectively. The scores for lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) were ranked and divided into deciles, ranging from the least deprived tenth of areas to the most deprived tenth of areas.

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates[1] with 95% confidence limits[2], for each income deprivation decile[3] in England[4], 2009[5]

		95% confidence limits	
Decile	Rate per 100,000	Lower limit	Upper limit
Least deprived	399	395	404
2	439	435	443
3	468	464	472
4	494	489	498
5	514	509	519
6	547	543	552
7	597	591	602
8	659	653	664
9	705	699	712
Most deprived	784	776	791

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Based on the income domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007.

[4] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are based on deaths registered in 2009.

Table 2: Age-standardised mortality rates[1] with 95% confidence limits[2], for each income deprivation decile[3] in Wales[4], 2009[5]

		95% confidence limits	
Decile	Rate per 100,000	Lower limit	Upper limit
Least deprived	444	426	462
2	469	451	487
3	507	489	525
4	545	526	564
5	545	526	564
6	588	568	608
7	627	605	648
8	682	659	705
9	742	717	767
Most deprived	807	780	834

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Based on the income domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008.

[4] Figures for Wales exclude deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are based on deaths registered in 2009.

Notes:

1. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in England. It was commissioned by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and developed by the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the university of Oxford. It consists of seven domains: income; employment; health and disability; education skills and training; barriers to housing and services; living environment; and crime. More information about the index can be found at the following link:

   http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/indiciesdeprivation07

2. The IMD 2010 is due to be released on 24 March 2011.

3. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008 is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales. It was developed for the Welsh Assembly Government by the Assembly's Statistical Directorate and the Local Government Data Unit (Wales). It consists of eight domains: income; employment; health; education; housing; access to services; environment; and community safety. More information about the index can be found at the following link:

   http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/wimd/2008/?lang=en

4. There are 32,482 lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) in England and 1,896 in Wales. The number of LSOAs in each income deprivation decile is detailed in table 3 below.

Table 3: Number of lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) in each income deprivation decile, Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 and Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008

Decile	IMD 2007	WIMD 2008
Least deprived	3,249	186
2	3,249	190
3	3,248	190
4	3,249	190
5	3,247	190
6	3,249	190
7	3,247	190
8	3,249	190
9	3,248	190
Most deprived	3,247	190

5. Data are extracted from the SOPHIE database using the latest boundaries for consistency. This means that figures for past time periods can sometimes differ from those previously published by ONS for those periods, where boundaries have changed over time.

Deaths: Children

John Hemming: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children have died where child *(a)* abuse and *(b)* neglect was recorded as a contributory factor in each year since 1990. [44779]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many children have died where child *(a)* abuse and *(b)* neglect was recorded as a contributory factor in each year since 1990 [44779].

The information collected at death registration provides statistics on deaths which were caused by specific conditions or injuries. It is not possible to obtain from these mortality statistics the contributory factors of child abuse or neglect.

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to the death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death, and whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

When a death has been investigated by a coroner further information may be available to ONS in the form of coroner's inquest text but this information cannot be extracted without disproportionate costs.

Further information on child mortality statistics is published on the Office for National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product. asp?vlnk=15362

Population: Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the amount of remittances from British Yemenis to Yemen in each of the last five years. [44259]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask the Minister of the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the amount of remittances from British Yemenis to Yemen in each of the last five years. [44259]

The UK Balance of Payments (Pink Book, table 5.1, p79) includes statistics for 'other payment by households', which includes data on remittances. However, ONS does not publish estimates analysed by country because they are not considered to be of sufficient quality and so, figures for Yemen are not available.

Suicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of suicide rates in each socio-economic group. [44807]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about suicide rates in each socioeconomic group (44807).

The table attached provides age-standardised mortality rates by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) where suicide was the underlying cause of death, for men aged 25-64 in England and Wales, for 2001-03.

The corresponding rates for women are not shown as the analysis by NS-SEC focuses only on major causes of death, both because of resource limitations and because of the reduced reliability of rates based on small numbers. Suicide is a large enough cause of death for men to have come within the scope of the analysis quoted, but not a large enough cause for women.

More recent estimates are not available because it is not possible to obtain sufficiently reliable population denominators by NS-SEC class (in addition to age and sex) for analysis by individual causes of death, except at the time of the decennial Census. The figures attached were based on deaths registered in 2001-03, the 2001 Census, and ONS population estimates for England and Wales for the years 2001-03.

These figures were published in Health Statistics Quarterly (volume 38, page 27) in 2008. Details can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ38_Final_WEB_file.pdf

Age standardised[1] mortality rates from suicide and events of undetermined intent[2], by NS-SEC class, men aged 25-64, England and Wales

Rate per million

	NS-SEC analytic class	*Rate*	*Lower 95% confidence interval*	*Upper 95% confidence interval*
1	Higher managerial and professional occupations	74	68	81
	1.1 Large employers, higher managers	47	40	55
	1.2 Higher professionals	94	85	105
2	Lower managerial and professional	111	104	118
3	Intermediate	175	158	193
4	Small employers and own a/c workers	154	143	166
5	Lower supervisory and technical	136	127	146
6	Semi-routine	243	229	258
7	Routine	268	255	282
	All men in England and Wales	188	184	192

[1] Age standardised mortality rates per million population. Standardised rates allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 (excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

Third Sector: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding his Department provided to strengthen charities and civil societies in each year since 1997. [42072]

Mr Hurd: The Office of the Third Sector (now the Office for Civil Society) was established in the Cabinet

Office in May 2006. Since then, expenditure by the Cabinet Office on programmes to support civil society organisations has been reported separately in the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts. Each year, note 11 of the accounts breaks down this expenditure by programme.

Unemployment: Airdrie

Pamela Nash: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of workless households in Airdrie and Shotts constituency. [44804]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of workless households in Airdrie and Shotts constituency (44804).

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The latest data currently available are for 2009. The attached table shows estimates for Airdrie and Shotts constituency.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value for 95% of all possible samples.

Number of workless households[1] in Airdrie and Shott constituency

Thousand

	Estimate	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
January to December 2009	6	4	8

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16-64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.
[2] 95% confidence interval.
Source:
APS household dataset

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on establishing a Big Society day. [41812]

Mr Hurd: The Government have been working to build a culture of social action. As part of this, a "Giving" Green Paper was published in December 2010 containing a range of ideas to encourage the giving of time and money, and these ideas will be developed in a White Paper to be published in due course. The civil service recently committed to a new volunteering initiative that will encourage hundreds of thousands of professionals to volunteer for at least one day each year. The Government are working with external organisations to encourage this culture of giving outside the civil service and take forward the idea of a Big Society day.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will develop and publicise a national scheme to monitor corporate giving. [41983]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has no plans to publicise a national scheme to monitor corporate giving. The recently published 'Giving' Green Paper seeks to increase levels of giving and mutual support in all sectors of our society, catalysing a culture shift that makes social action a social norm. This consultation period for the Green Paper will close on 9 March and the Government will publish a White Paper on Giving after this.

Transition Fund

Stella Creasy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what factors he took into account in setting the deadline for applications to the Transition Fund by voluntary organisations; and whether he discussed such factors with representatives of *(a)* the voluntary sector and *(b)* local government. [44037]

Mr Hurd: The Transition Fund was open to applications on 30 November 2010 with a deadline of 21 January 2011. When setting this timetable, the Government were particularly mindful to balance the urgent need to support organisations facing financial hardship with requiring some evidence of the cuts they face. Big Fund, the delivery partner, held a consultation event on 11 November 2010 to seek views about the implementation of the Transition Fund. A wide range of organisations attended the consultation event including frontline civil society organisations, infrastructure organisations, national umbrella bodies representing civil society, representatives from the Local Government Association and central Government.

Voluntary Work

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of barriers to volunteering. [38838]

Mr Hurd: In 2008-09 the Governments Citizenship Survey showed that the main barriers to volunteering were, work commitments (cited by 55% of those that did not volunteer), family responsibilities (30%), lack of spare time (26%) and not hearing about opportunities to help (20%).

Encouraging social action, including volunteering is one of the three aims of the Governments vision for a big society. To support this aim, in December 2010 the Government published the Giving Green paper. The Green Paper sought to start a debate on how we can make social action a norm and encourage more people to give their time, including removing barriers to volunteering.

The Government are also committed to reducing bureaucracy for charities, social enterprises and community organisations. To achieve this the Cabinet Office and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) have set up a joint taskforce to investigate how to reduce the bureaucratic burdens on civil society organisations, particularly small organisations. The taskforce is chaired by Lord Hodgson and will report to Ministers in spring 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of volunteering on the (i) well-being and (ii) employability of (A) newly unemployed and (B) long-term unemployed people. [41039]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has not directly commissioned and evaluated research related to the effect of volunteering on unemployed people. However, we have confidence that volunteering offers volunteers a range of benefits that would have a positive impact on unemployed people.

This is supported by the Department for Work and Pension's report 'Evaluation of the six month offer: A report of quantitative findings', published in October 2010. This found that of those Jobseeker's allowance customers who took up a volunteering placement under the six month offer initiative:

67% felt they were more motivated to find work;

74% felt better about themselves as a result;

79% were more enthusiastic about taking on further voluntary opportunities in future; and

60% said they felt they had a better chance of finding a job as a result.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what role behavioural science has played in his Department's development of its policy on *(a)* giving, *(b)* volunteering and *(c)* the Big Society. [41834]

Mr Hurd: The Behavioural Science Team was consulted in relation to the proposals in the recent Green Paper on giving of time and money. One of the discussion essays published alongside the Green Paper was authored by the Head of the Behavioural Insight team, David Halpern. Access to the Behavioural Insight Team is available to staff in the Office of Civil Society.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an assessment of geographical variation in *(a)* levels of volunteering and *(b)* the number of charities; and if he will make a statement. [41890]

Mr Hurd: Data from the 2009-10 Citizenship Survey, conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government, show a regional variation in volunteering as follows:

Percentage

Region	*Formal volunteering*		*Informal volunteering*	
	Once a month	*Once a year*	*Once a month*	*Once a year*
North East	23	36	28	51
North West	20	34	26	47
Yorkshire and Humber	25	38	28	52
East Midlands	26	40	26	51
West Midlands	27	41	31	53
East of England	27	44	37	63
London	20	35	26	49
South East	28	45	30	61
South West	31	49	32	60

Data from The UK Civil Society Almanac 2010 published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations show regional variations in the number of general charities as follows:

Region	*Number of organisations—2007-08*
North East	4,818
North West	14,029
Yorkshire and Humber	11,023
East Midlands	11,617
West Midlands	12,467
East of England	17,515
London	23,081
South East	25,616
South West	18,555
Total	138,721

Encouraging social action, including volunteering, is one of the three aims of the Government's vision for a Big Society. To support this aim, in December 2010 the Government published the Giving Green paper. The Green Paper sought to start a debate on how we can make social action a norm and encourage more people to give their time, including removing barriers to volunteering.

In addition, the Cutting Red Tape taskforce, led by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots, is considering the red tape that affects civil society organisations and will recommend how to reduce its impact. This will contribute to the Government's aim of making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what use his Department has made [illegible] time-use studies in establishing volunteering patterns across *(a)* socio-economic, *(b)* age, *(c)* gender and *(d)* race groups. [41977]

Mr Hurd: The Department has not made use of time use studies to establish volunteering patterns across socio economic, age, gender and race groups. This information is collected through the Citizenship Survey, as conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The information is in the public domain and available in the 2008-09 Citizenship Survey Volunteering and Charitable Giving Topic Report:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1547056.pdf

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 453-4W, on voluntary work, what the evidential basis is for his Department's expectation that levels of volunteering will increase over the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [42200]

Mr Hurd: The Giving Green Paper, published in December 2010, contained a preliminary analysis of existing research. It showed that people are held back from volunteering due to a range of barriers, these include: too much bureaucracy, the lack of time or not having the right information. The Green Paper also outlined the Government's initial ideas for catalysing a culture shift towards a more giving society, including: the creation of an £80 million Volunteering Fund, which comprises a volunteering match fund and a volunteer infrastructure programme. These programmes will both provide support to organisations to take on more volunteers, and encourage individuals to take up these new opportunities.

A public consultation on the Green Paper will run until 9 March 2011 and will feed into a White Paper to be published in spring 2011. This White Paper will set out a number of policy proposals aimed at increasing all forms of giving, however we cannot anticipate details in advance of its publication.

Working Hours

Mr Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what was the average number of hours worked by *(a)* adults aged 18 to 65 and *(b)* employed adults aged 18 to 65 in each year since 1981. [44521]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average number of hours worked by a) adults aged 18 to 65 and b) employed adults aged 18 to 65 is in each year since 1981. (44521).

The table provided shows average actual weekly hours derived from the Labour Force Survey. Estimates are for quarter four of each year from 1992 to 2010. Estimates prior to 1992 are not available.

Average actual weekly hours of work, people aged 18 to 65 Quarter 4 each year, 1992 to 2010—United Kingdom

		Hours per week
	Population[1]	In employment[2]
1992	23.5	34.2
1993	23.5	34.1
1994	23.5	35.1
1995	24.5	35.1
1996	24.9	35.4
1997	24.3	34.1
1998	24.4	34.0
1999	24.8	34.3
2000	25.1	34.6
2001	25.1	34.5
2002	25.1	34.4
2003	24.9	34.1
2004	24.5	33.5
2005	24.6	33.7
2006	24.7	33.7
2007	24.8	33.8
2008	23.7	32.6
2009	23.1	32.4
2010	22.6	31.7

[1] Average actual weekly hours worked by people in main and second job including paid and unpaid overtime for the population as a whole.

[2] Average actual weekly hours worked by people in main and second job including paid and unpaid overtime for people in employment.

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contribution of fiscal measures to reduce levels of waste to landfill to the Government's carbon emission reduction targets. [44001]

Justine Greening: The landfill tax and the landfill allowance trading schemes aim to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill. The annual volume of waste sent to landfill has reduced from 95.8 million tonnes to 43.9 million tonnes since landfill tax was introduced in 1996.

As a result, direct emissions from waste in 2011 are projected to be 2.6 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent lower than if the level of waste sent to landfill had not changed.

Fiscal Policy: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made on the effects on fiscal policy of rising global food and commodity prices. [43993]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) produced its latest forecast for the public finances in its November Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2010, available here:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook.html

The OBR will publish an updated assessment of the public finances at the Budget on 23 March 2011, which will include any effects from changing food and commodity prices.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with *(a)* the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* other Ministerial colleagues on capitalisation and accounting practices for the proposed Green Investment Bank. [43266]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 2 March 2011]*: Treasury Ministers have frequent meetings with their ministerial colleagues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

George Freeman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has for the future use of revenues raised through the aggregates levy following the closure of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund; [43658]

(2) what plans he has for the future funding of environmental projects following the closure of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. [43657]

Justine Greening: Responsibility for the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) lies with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Following the spending review settlement in October 2010 DEFRA has decided to discontinue the ALSF programme of work from 1 April 2011, after careful consideration across its priorities.

Value for money and significant environment projects will continue to be funded where it is affordable for the Department to do so, in the context of tighter budget allocations. However, DEFRA is funding a project to help ensure that the findings from money already invested in ALSF research and development are accessible to those who can put them into practice and achieve the potential improvements in environmental performance.

Revenue from the aggregates levy will go into the Consolidated Fund and help support general public spending. £0.3 billion is forecast to be raised in 2010-11.

In the spending review the Government committed to increase central Government environmental spending by 21% between 2010-11 and 2014-15, including:

Up to 1 billion of investment to create one of the world's first commercial scale carbon capture and storage demonstration plants;

£2 billion investment in flood defences better protecting 145,000 households by 2014-15;

Over £200 million for the development of low carbon technologies including offshore wind technology and manufacturing at port sites; and

£2.9 billion of international climate finance to help developing countries pursue low carbon growth and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In addition the Government have committed to setting up a UK-wide Green Investment Bank, initially capitalised with £1 billion of Government funding together with additional significant proceeds from the sale of Government owned assets. The new institution will make a radical new contribution to financing green infrastructure through having an explicit mandate to tackle risk that the market cannot currently adequately finance.

Arch Cru

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Financial Services Authority is taking to investigate the collapse of the Arch Cru fund. [44334]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is investigating the issues surrounding the suspension and winding-up of the Arch Cru funds, but is prevented under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 from disclosing details of its supervision of individual firms, for reasons of confidentiality. Where the FSA takes enforcement action against an authorised firm, it makes the details of this action public.

Bank Services

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to prevent banks from offsetting losses incurred since autumn 2008 against their tax liabilities. [44012]

Mr Hoban: The Government keep all taxes under review.

Banks: Pay

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 494W, on banks: pay, for what reasons the release of the document would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs; and if he will make a statement. [41599]

Mr Hoban: Policy advice, recommendations, suggested options, and opinions are generally withheld from publication, so that:

decision-making is based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options;

advice can be broadly based—there may be a deterrent effect on experts or stakeholders who might be reluctant to provide advice because it might be disclosed;

the impartiality of the civil service is protected—it might be undermined if advice was routinely made public as there is a risk that officials could come under political or public pressure not to challenge ideas in the formulation of policy, thus leading to poorer decision-making;

Ministers and officials can conduct rigorous and candid risk assessments of their policies and programmes including considerations of the pros and cons without there being premature disclosure which might close off discussion and the development of better options;

there is a free space in which it is possible to "think the unthinkable" and use imagination, without the fear that policy proposals will be held up to ridicule or public criticism; and

the collective responsibility of the Government is not undermined by disclosure of interdepartmental consideration and views of other Ministers (which may reveal disagreement).

The document referred to has been withheld for these reasons.

Banks: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what sanctions will apply if Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group or RBS do not meet their commitments on pay disclosure as part of the Project Merlin agreement; [42277]

(2) what sanctions will apply if the remuneration committees of Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group or RBS do not confirm to the Financial Services Authority that their pay deals conform with the commitments given in relation to pay as part of the Project Merlin agreement. [42278]

Mr Hoban: *[holding answer 1 March 2011]:* As a result of the Government's discussions, the four largest UK banks have committed that the total remuneration paid in 2010 will be lower than it was in 2009 and lower than it would have been otherwise. The Remuneration Committee Chair of each bank will write to the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to confirm that this commitment has been met. These banks have also committed to world-leading pay disclosure arrangements which when taken together with the FSA's sector-wide regime make the UK's disclosure arrangements the toughest of any major financial centre. The Government expect that these commitments will be met. Going forward, the Government will consult on extending the disclosure requirements to other large banks in the UK.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 1.3.4 Project Merlin—Banks' Statement, (1) what steps he plans to take to determine whether sufficient demand for lending among UK businesses has materialised; [44750]

(2) who will determine whether sufficient demand for lending to businesses has materialised; [44857]

(3) what process will be used to determine whether sufficient demand for lending to businesses materialises. [44858]

Mr Hoban: The Bank of England will report, on a quarterly basis, the banks' total new lending to all businesses (and within that, to SMEs) under the definitions used for Project Merlin.

In addition, the Business Finance Taskforce, led by the British Bankers' Association, has agreed to 17 new commitments in order to improve the banks' relationship with their business customers. The banks will provide a new Lending Code and a transparent appeals procedure for declined loan applications, among other actions. These commitments will be evaluated by a regular survey of small businesses and their experience of access to finance, which will be published by the British Bankers' Association.

Child Benefit: Fraud

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent child benefit fraud. [44270]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) approach to tackling child benefit error and fraud is two-fold; to prevent fraud from entering the child benefit system and, where it already exists, to remove it.

HMRC requires each customer to provide documentary evidence of each child being claimed for, such as an original birth or adoption certificate. Those documents are subject to strict verification before a claim is paid.

HMRC deploys a specialist compliance team to tackle error and fraud already in the system. The team undertake a range of interventions targeting non-compliant customers, challenging information they provide and stopping claims where appropriate.

Corporation Tax

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* corporation tax and *(b)* proportion of gross profits paid in corporation tax by the banking sector in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [44014]

Mr Hoban: HM Revenue and Customs(HMRC) do not currently publish statistics on corporation tax (CT) paid by the banking sector, or gross profits. HMRC does publish historical financial services sector CT receipts which will include the banking sector. This information is regularly updated and published in table 11.1, on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employment since May 2010; [42308]

(2) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed on the latest date for which figures are available; [42389]

(3) how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42405]

Justine Greening: The following table gives the number of civil servants employed by HM Treasury on 31 May 2010 and 31 December 2010 (the latest complete month for which figures are currently available) and the number of staff who have left or joined the Department between those two dates.

HM Treasury employees

Date	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
31 May 2010	1,401	1,362.8
31 December 2010	1,372	1,333.0
Leavers	244	240.2

Economic Growth: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of implementing the EU's 2020 Strategy for economic growth; how many *(a)* directives and *(b)* regulations he expects to emanate from the 2020 Strategy; and whether he expects there to be any transfer of powers from the UK to the EU as a result of any instrument arising from the 2020 Strategy. [44415]

Mr Hoban: The Europe 2020 Strategy sets out an overarching policy framework for promoting growth across the EU including seven "flagship initiatives" in key areas such as innovation and employment and a series of policy initiatives in areas such as trade policy and the Single Market.

The Government supports the broad aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and considers that it is essential for the EU-level reform agenda to focus narrowly on a few key issues which will have the greatest impact on growth, such as the Single Market and trade policy, reducing regulatory burdens for business and driving innovation in the EU.

While the Commission has published consultation documents or proposals in a number of areas, it has not yet come forward with draft legislation in many areas. As a result, at this time, it is not possible to provide a meaningful or accurate estimate of the cost of implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy, or the number of directives or regulations emanating from it.

The Government have been clear that the strategy must respect member states' competence as defined by the Treaties, and that any future changes that move a power or an area of policy from the UK to the EU, will be subject to a referendum. The June European Council conclusions state that any policy recommendations addressed to member states:

> "shall be fully in line with relevant Treaty provisions and EU rules and respect member states' competences in areas such as education".

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44226]

Justine Greening: The Treasury has not placed any contracts with Electoral Reform Services since 2005.

European Committee

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, European Committee B, column 9, for what reasons the Financial Secretary to the Treasury stated that the only legal action had been struck down. [39868]

Mr Hoban: *[holding answer 11 February 2011]:* The statement was inaccurate; the admissibility of the case brought against the Council by Mr Thomas Ax is currently under consideration. I have since written, as I committed to do in the course of the debate, to the hon. Member for Stone with a correct account of the matter. This has no material effect on the broader issue, which is that the Government believe that EU Council Regulation No. 407/2010, establishing the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, is consistent with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Government are not aware of a significant body of legal opinion supporting the opposite view.

Financial Institutions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the extension of net lending targets to be covered by the Project Merlin agreement. [43999]

Mr Hoban: On 9 February 2011 the Government announced that the five Merlin banks agreed to make available the appropriate capital and resources to support gross new lending to UK small and medium-sized businesses, of £190 billion, should sufficient demand materialise.

Increasing the amounts that the banks are willing to make available to businesses over the next year in new lending will help to give businesses the confidence that they need to seek finance from their bank and ensure that the banks are focused on providing that flow of credit to businesses.

This goes much further than the previous Government and delivers a commitment from all five major retail banks to lend to UK businesses. These five banks represent around 90% of the UK SME banking market.

Financial Services Authority: Equality

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will revise the objectives of the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority to include the promotion of corporate diversity. [43919]

Mr Hoban: The objectives of the chief executive are set by the chairman and the board of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA's day-to-day operations are independent from government control and influence.

Financial Services Authority: Incentives

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at the Financial Services Authority were entitled to receive a bonus in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [43884]

Mr Hoban: The matter concerned is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from government control and influence.

There is no automatic or guaranteed bonus for staff at the FSA. However, the FSA has an annual individual incentive plan which extends to all full-time staff and is based on individual performance throughout the year. Individual incentive payments are designed to recognise and reward the FSA's highest performers. The FSA is not able to confirm any further details as the 2011 pay review process, which rewards performance for 2010, has not yet been completed.

Mileage Payment Allowance

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future level of the mileage payment allowance. [43711]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in response to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 785W.

Northern Rock: Financial Health of Friendly Societies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent meetings he has had on the *(a)* possible remutualisation of Northern Rock and *(b)* financial health of friendly societies; and if he will make a statement. [43920]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI) manages the Government's investments in financial institutions on an arm's length and commercial basis. The development and execution of strategies for disposing of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock is part of UKFI's remit.

UKFI will look at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and will explore options based on maximising value for the taxpayer, maintaining financial stability and paying due regard to promoting competition. All exit strategies for Northern Rock plc will be considered. The final decision on the sale of Northern Rock will be made by the Chancellor.

UKFI and Northern Rock plc are in the process of jointly appointing advisers to examine all possible exit strategies. Advisers will be appointed in the field of corporate finance, tax and accountancy.

On the financial health of friendly societies, despite the challenges faced by much of the wider financial sector, most mutuals have emerged from the financial crisis relatively unscathed. The Government support the mutual proposition of which friendly societies are one part, however, they also recognise some specific challenges this model will face over the coming years.

Personal Savings: Government Assistance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has plans to introduce Government-backed individual saving accounts enabling investment in environmental industries; [43676]

(2) whether his Department made a recent assessment of the *(a)* availability and *(b)* gross monetary value of individual saving accounts enabling investment in environmental industries; [43677]

(3) what his policy is on issuing Government-backed bonds for investment in low-carbon industries; [43678]

(4) whether he has met representatives of the Sustainable Investment and Finance Association to discuss the creation of Government-backed individual saving accounts enabling investment in environmental industries; [43679]

(5) whether he has met representatives of the UK investment industry to discuss the creation of Government-backed individual saving accounts enabling investment in environmental industries. [43680]

Mr Hoban: The Government are undertaking analysis into how investment in green industries can be increased.

The ISA market is competitive and a number of providers have chosen to offer green, environmental or ethical ISAs. When ISA providers provide information to HMRC on account holders it does not include information on whether an investment is environmental or not and so no estimate of the value of accounts investing in environmental industries is available.

The Government are currently considering how best to encourage additional investment in green infrastructure through the Green Investment Bank, and are aiming to announce their detailed proposals in May. When considering issuing new bond instruments the Government consider:

consistency with the debt management objective (minimising long-term cost, subject to risk) and the principles on which debt management is based;

impact on liquidity and the good functioning more generally of the gilt market;

the likely size of demand for the new instrument; and

an assessment of the cost and resource commitment required for implementation in comparison with the potential size of demand.

Treasury Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Refrigerators: Recycling

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce financial incentives to increase the use of remanufactured refrigerated display cabinets. [44376]

Justine Greening: All taxes are kept under review and announcements on tax policy are made at Budget.

Tax Credit: Fraud

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the monetary value of tax credits claimed fraudulently in each month since May 2010. [43906]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) measure error and fraud retrospectively. Information is published annually and cannot be broken down by month. Information for 2010-11 is not yet available.

HMRC has a target to reduce the combined levels of error and fraud to no more than 5%, from 8.9% in 2008-09, the latest published estimates, by the end of March 2011.

The Trust Statement that accompanied HMRC's 2009-10 accounts explains in more detail how the Department measures the overall level of tax credits error and fraud, published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

HMRC published a joint strategy with the Department for Work and Pensions to help drive down error and fraud across the benefits and tax credits system. The publication can be found at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/tackling-fraud-and-error.pdf

Tax Relief: Dairy Farmers

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide tax relief to assist dairy farmers in preparing for implementations of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone regulations in each of the next four financial years. [43994]

Justine Greening: The extension of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, which protect vulnerable ecosystems and the quality of drinking water in the UK, was undertaken through a phased process. The extension was announced in October 2008, and the new regulations introduced on 1 January 2009 for implementation from 1 January 2010.

The Government have appointed a Taskforce on Farming Regulations which will report early this year on ways to reduce regulatory burdens on farmers.

Taxation: Aviation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to ensure that air passenger duty exemptions for passengers departing from the Highlands and Islands are maintained in implementing his proposals to introduce a per plane tax; [44196]

(2) what consultation his Department plans to undertake in the Highlands and Islands on his proposals to replace air passenger duty with a per plane tax; [44197]

(3) whether he plans to review the military exemptions from air passenger duty; [44198]

(4) whether his proposals for a per plane tax will apply to cargo flights operating within the Highlands and Islands region. [44199]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W.

Taxation: Gambling

Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of gross profit tax is paid by *(a)* adult gaming centres, *(b)* onshore gaming websites and *(c)* offshore gaming websites. [44390]

Justine Greening: Adult gaming centres pay Amusement Machine License Duty and VAT on their gaming machines. The licence fee payable varies depending on stake and prize limits.

Online gaming websites, licensed in the UK, pay a remote gaming duty of 15% on gross profits.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

British Overseas NGOs for Development

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided for the Bond organisation in each of the last five years; and what reports he has received from that organisation on the effect of its activities on levels of poverty. [43898]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) funding to Bond from 2006-07 to 2010-11 is as follows.

	£
2006-07	450,000
2007-08	454,000
2008-09	479,261
2009-10	558,599
2010-11	627,180

It is a requirement for all non-government organisations who receive DFID funding to provide annual reports and annual audited accounts. DFID has received and reviewed annual reports for Bond in the last five years. DFID has also received an independent evaluation of Bond's work for the period 2008-10 which is available on the Department's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Bond's impact on poverty is indirect. Bond's focus is primarily to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of its membership, consisting of 370 UK-based international development organisations.

Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's report on Building support for Development Strategy—Impact of strategy, expenditure and activities, August 2009, page 6, which broadcast programmes receive seed funding from his Department. [43977]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development provides seed funding to broadcast programmes through our support to the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA). DFID's current agreement with CBA is for three years and was entered into in December 2009. A list of broadcast programmes which received seed funding from DFID over the period 2002 to 2010 will be deposited in the Library of the House.

All DFID's funding for development awareness raising work is currently being reviewed to determine its effectiveness and to assess whether, and if so how, DFID should continue to use aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty and public involvement in efforts to address this. More information on this review is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Making-a-difference/Dev-aware-Review/

I expect the review to be completed by the end of March 2011. Ministers will then look closely at its outcomes and assess the relevance of these activities to the UK's development objectives, in order to determine the future of DFID's development awareness work in the UK.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 210W, on the Civil Society Challenge Fund, which trade unions received funding from the Civil Society Challenge Fund in 2009-10; and how much each such trade union received. [43930]

Mr O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 527W. The requested information is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43750]

Mr O'Brien: Expenditure by the Department for International Development (DFID) on engaging external audit services for the last three financial years were as follows, with totals aggregated per provider:

			£000
Service provider	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Statutory audit			
National Audit Office—resource accounts	281	281	256
Project audits—aggregated per provider			
RSM Bentley Jennison	—	72.5	253.5
Baker Tilly	—	—	50.5
European Commission	—	—	33
Pannell Kerr Forster	20	6	25
KPMG	—	9.5	16.5
PricewaterhouseCoopers	35	17	16

Service provider	2008-09	2009-10	£000 2010-11
Akinbola Williams Deloitte Consulting	—	—	13
MC Global Audit	—	8.5	8
COI	—	—	8
ACNABIN	—	—	7
NAO	—	—	7
Howlader Yunus and Co.	—	—	6.5
International Organisation Development	—	—	6.5
S.F. Ahmed and Co.	—	—	6.5
A. Quasem	—	—	5
A. wahab	—	—	4
Institute of Internal Auditors	1	2	0.5
FGS McClure Watters	—	42.5	—
Ernst and Young	—	36	—
Deloitte	—	24	—
OECD	—	23	—
CABI	3	13	—
Graham Carr	—	3	—
Vincent Ahwi and Co.	8.5	—	—
Wachira Irungu and Associates	3	—	—
Total	330.5	577	717

DFID's non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), has incurred no expenditure on auditing services in the last three years. CSC delegates financial transactions to two partner organisations, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and British Council; both bodies are subject to external audit.

Departmental Furniture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* furniture, *(b)* paintings and *(c)* other items costing over £100 were purchased for the private offices of Ministers in his Department between May 1997 and May 2010. [43984]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not incurred expenditure on paintings as where these are required they are obtained on free loan from the Government Art Collection. Expenditure on furniture and other items over £100 obtained for Ministers' private offices in the period 1 May 1997 to 1 May 2010 is not readily available and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43954]

Mr O'Brien: The 2009-10 budget for the Department for International Development's (DFID's) central procurement function was £1.6 million. DFID does not currently have any separate outsourcing functions.

DFID's non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, does not have procurement or outsourcing functions and has not incurred any such expenditure in the last financial year.

Environment Protection

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's policy on the recommendations of the UN Environment Programme report, Towards a Green Economy. [43694]

Mr O'Brien: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released their report "Towards a Green Economy—Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication" on 21 February 2011.

I will raise the report on 8 March at the 'Green Breakfast' meeting hosted by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and initiate a preliminary discussion on the recommendations.

Music

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on the Music for Change World Music Matters project; what music has been produced; and if he will place in the Library a recording of the music produced to date. [43974]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £184,550 on the World Music Matters project, implemented by the non-government organisation Music for Change, through the Development Awareness Fund. The project—set up under the previous Government—started in July 2006 and closed in March 2010. The project produced a range of training materials for teachers, including a DVD with music as part of a teaching resource pack. This pack will be placed in the Library of the House.

All DFID's existing funding for development awareness raising work is currently being reviewed to determine its effectiveness and to assess whether, and if so how, DFID should continue to use aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty and public involvement in efforts to address this. More information on this review is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Making-a-difference/Dev-aware-Review/

I expect the review to be completed by the end of March 2011. Ministers will then look closely at its outcomes and assess the relevance of these activities to the UK's development objectives, in order to determine the future of DFID's development awareness work in the UK.

National Union of Teachers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds his Department has given to the National Union of Teachers in each year since his Department's formation. [43987]

Mr O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 215W. The requested information is available in the Library of the House.

All DFID's funding for development awareness raising work is currently being reviewed to determine its effectiveness and to assess whether, and if so how, DFID should continue to use aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty and public involvement in efforts to address this. More information on this review is available on the Department's website at:

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I expect the review to be completed by the end of March 2011. Ministers will then look closely at its outcomes and assess the relevance of these activities to the UK's development objectives, in order to determine the future of DFID's development awareness work in the UK.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the potential use of biochar in assisting carbon and nitrogen fixation in smallholder farms in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa. [44018]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is considering funding research on the use of biochar to assist carbon capture and soil improvement in smallholder farms in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. The existing—mainly technical—research suggests that biochar can deliver benefits in terms of improved soil performance, carbon capture, crop nutrients and plant disease control. However, there is currently little understanding of how this will work for smallholders in Africa. DFID is considering strengthening this evidence base, in collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Sudan: International Assistance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps with his EU and UN counterparts to make improvements to the lives of the people of northern Sudan. [44740]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I last discussed support to Northern Sudan with my EU colleagues at a meeting of Development Ministers and EU Commissioner Piebalgs on 22 February 2011. I have also in recent months discussed UN delivery across Sudan with the Heads of UN Agencies including Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Baroness Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The UK will continue to work with EU and UN counterparts to promote economic development and improve lives in both North and South Sudan.

Sudan is currently not eligible to money from the 10th round of the European development fund. However, the UK has led on the creation of a special fund for Sudan using undisbursed money from previous rounds. Some of this special fund will go to Northern Sudan for use in its marginalised areas: the three states of the East, the North-South Border Areas, and in Darfur. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) office in Sudan is currently working closely with the EU delegation on this.

The UN is pivotal to the delivery of the UK's humanitarian assistance to Northern Sudan, for example through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). Thus far in 2011, the UK has provided £30 million to the CHF, of which 46% will be spent in Northern Sudan.

Beyond our work through these specific multilateral channels, I have recently announced the results of the UK's Bilateral Aid Review. Over the next four years, the UK Government will work with North and South Sudan to promote growth, employment and accountable and transparent government; we will help 1 million people escape from poverty; get 240,000 children through primary school; give over 500,000 people access to clean water and sanitation; and provide life-saving health and nutrition support to up to 10 million people.

Trades Union Congress

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Mini Learning Fund report of June 2006 appended to the report on the strategic grant agreement between his Department and the Trades Union Congress. [43896]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I will arrange for a copy of the report to be deposited in the Library of the House. All existing Department for International Development (DFID) funding to the Trades Union Congress will end on 31 March 2011.

Woodcraft Folk Scotland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of its funding for Woodcraft Folk Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [43897]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In March 2009, Woodcraft Folk Scotland was awarded £24,812 for a three year project which aims to raise awareness among young people in Scotland of the global effects of climate change. The funding is provided through the Development Awareness Fund Mini Grants Scheme which is managed by the International Development Education Association of Scotland (IDEAS).

All DFID's funding for development awareness raising work is currently being reviewed to determine its effectiveness and to assess whether, and if so how, DFID should continue to use aid funds in the UK to promote awareness of global poverty and public involvement in efforts to address this. More information on this review is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Making-a-difference/Dev-aware-Review/

I expect the review to be completed by the end of March 2011. Ministers will then look closely at its outcomes and assess the relevance of these activities to the UK's development objectives, in order to determine the future of DFID's development awareness work in the UK.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for the Government Equalities Office that *(a)* was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and *(b)* complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 to date. [45040]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office does not procure any seafood.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of the Government Equalities Office was in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43966]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office does not have a procurement section or an outsourcing function.

Females: Status

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what arrangements the Government Equalities Office has in place to monitor the status of women in society. [44210]

Lynne Featherstone: The Inter Ministerial Group on Equalities, chaired by the Home Secretary as Minister for Women and Equalities is responsible for overseeing the progress of the Government's Equality Strategy, published in December 2010. A report on the progress of the implementation of the Strategy will be published annually. The Government considers information from a range of sources including research, surveys and direct engagement with women in order to understand developments which relate to women's status in society and to inform policy development.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is required to monitor and report on the progress that society is making in relation to equality, including gender equality. The Commission published its first Triennial Review in October 2010.

In addition, the Government will shortly publish a consultation document setting out our vision for a new approach for how Government engages and listens to women which will include more direct engagement and use of social media. This new approach will seek to capture views on the range of issues which affect women's lives.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what account she has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42600]

Lynne Featherstone: The Compact between this coalition government and civil society organisations was agreed and launched on 16 December 2010. It was accompanied by guidance on accountability and transparency for the first time, ensuring that Government Departments as well as civil society organisations are clear about the level of commitment and the implications for not following the Compact. The Government Equalities Office considers policy that is relevant to civil society organisations from a Compact perspective, ensuring that it is adhered to, and where it is not possible for whatever reason, that this is explained to the sector in an open and transparent manner.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the outcome of the NATO Surge in Afghanistan. [44868]

Dr Fox: It is too early to say definitively what the outcome of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) surge has been but the signs are encouraging. The increase in both ISAF and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) has enabled us to continue to take the fight to the insurgency through the winter months. This has led to the momentum of the insurgency being arrested and reversed in many areas. In addition, we expect the formal process of transition to Afghan-led security to begin shortly.

These gains are not irreversible and we should expect levels of insurgent activity to rise again in the spring but as the insurgency is degraded and the ANSF are built up there is some cause for cautious optimism.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of meteorological differences between RAF bases located in the UK on their operational sustainability. [43931]

Nick Harvey: Weather conditions are one of many factors in military aviation and an assessment of the percentage of flying days lost to bad weather at RAF stations across the UK was carried out in 2009 as one of the elements of a study into the UK Military Emergency Diversion Aerodrome capability.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days each RAF base located in the UK was closed as a result of *(a)* adverse weather conditions and *(b)* other factors in each of the last five years. [43932]

Nick Harvey: No RAF stations have closed because of adverse weather conditions or other factors during the last five years. However, some of the RAF stations' runways have experienced temporary closures during this period. Details of the runway closures are not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria were used to determine that RAF Leuchars should undertake Quick Reaction Alert North duties. [43933]

Nick Harvey: RAF Leuchars began undertaking Quick Reaction Alert North duties over 40 years ago. Official records relating to the decision to use the station are no longer held by the Ministry of Defence.

Air Force: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the redundancies in the Royal Air Force announced on 1 March 2011 on harmony guidelines in that force. [44425]

Nick Harvey: Tranche one of the RAF redundancy programme announced on 1 March 2011 is not expected to impact upon the RAF's operational capability or Harmony Guidelines. The reductions have been targeted at trades and branches that are not currently experiencing the highest breach of Harmony Guidelines.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which courses RAF pilots in training and served with *(a)* a redundancy and *(b)* a transfer notice were undertaking; and what the (i) mean and (ii) median number of weeks they were from course completion; [44838]

(2) what criteria were used to determine which pilots in training were to be *(a)* made redundant and *(b)* transferred in the last six months; [44839]

(3) how many pilots in training at RAF Valley were served with redundancy notices in the latest period for which figures are available; and what courses they were on. [44881]

Nick Harvey: The RAF is currently in the process of selecting up to 170 RAF trainee pilots to be removed from the flying training pipeline. The criteria being used to assess the pilots will be a combination of the service need, officer qualities, ground based pilot aptitude testing and flying performance to date.

Those students affected will currently be undertaking one of the following courses: initial officer training, elementary flying training or type-specific training for either fast-jet, rotary or multi-engine. Further details relating to those being removed from the training pipeline will not be available until the selection process is complete.

Air Force: Training

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of training a Royal Air Force pilot was in the latest period for which figures are available. [44301]

Nick Harvey: A pilot is considered to be fully trained once they have successfully completed the flying training pipeline and an operational conversion unit where student pilots train to fly specific aircraft types.

To put a pilot through the flying training pipeline costs (per pilot) £3.2 million for fast jet aircraft, £0.6 million for multi-engine aircraft and £0.8 million for helicopters. These figures include a pro rata share of the cost of instructors, fuel, aircraft and simulator support, station and airfield support, recruitment, selection, student pay and shared training costs.

Information relating to the costs for individual operational conversion units is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Aircraft Carriers: Decommissioning

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential savings to his Department from the decommissioning of aircraft carriers in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [43901]

Mr Robathan: Savings from the withdrawal from service of HMS Ark Royal in December 2010 are estimated at £10 million in financial year 2011-12, £25 million in 2012-13, £35 million in 2013-14 and £35 million in 2014-15. Savings from the withdrawal from service of HMS Illustrious in 2014, which is our present planning assumption, are estimated at £5 million in 2013-14 and £30 million in 2014-15.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Chiefs of Staff Committee on the contribution of the Military Covenant to the effectiveness of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [44103]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence and other Defence Ministers have regular meetings with the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Chiefs of Staff at which a variety of subjects are discussed. Among them are the effectiveness of and support offered to the armed forces, including issues covered by the Covenant.

Armed Forces: Criminal Records

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether criminal convictions of members of the armed forces are recorded on the Police National Computer. [41019]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* Yes. Recordable offences on the Police National Computer are those offences under section 42 of the Armed Forces Act 2006 for which the corresponding offences under the law of England and Wales are also offences that are recordable under regulation 3 of the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000.

In addition, there are a number of service offences that are recordable. These are offences under the following sections of the Armed Forces Act 2006:

a. Section 11(1)—Misconduct towards a superior officer;

b. Section 14—Using force against a sentry, etc.;

c. Section 24(1)—Damage to or loss of public or service property;

d. Section 27—Obstructing or failing to assist a service policeman;

e. Section 28—Resistance to arrest, etc. (only in relation to a conviction under section 28(1)(b) or (c)—using violence or threatening behaviour);

f. Section 29—Offences in relation to service custody;

g. Section 30—Allowing escape, or unlawful release of prisoners, etc. (but only where the conviction is under section 30(4)(a));

h. Section 39—Attempts to commit any offences specified above; and

i. Section 40—Encouraging or assisting the commission of any offence above (apart from an attempt).

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the relevant foreign police force is informed in cases where a member of the armed forces who has been convicted of a criminal offence is subsequently posted overseas. [41322]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* No. There is no legislative requirement to do so.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel in each service are due to renew their contracts in the next 12 months. [43405]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* Armed forces personnel do not renew a contract of employment in its traditional form. If a current engagement is coming to an end, for reasons such as voluntary release or normal expiration of service, they may be offered or apply to extend their service if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria. Approval of that extension will only be given if it is in the interests of the service.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, on the armed forces redundancy process, what definition of personnel *(a)* recently returned from operations and *(b)* preparing to deploy on operations he uses. [44393]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* Those engaged in combat operations for which they are in receipt of operational allowance, are within six months of deploying or are recovering from those operations, for example on post-operational leave or rest and recuperation, on the day when the redundancy notices are issued will not be made redundant unless they have voluntarily applied for redundancy.

Armed Forces: Sexual Offences

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the relevant foreign police force is informed in cases where a member of the armed forces who has been convicted of an offence and placed on the *(a)* Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements and *(b)* sex offender register is subsequently posted overseas. [41321]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* No. Recording on the violent and sex offenders register is a United Kingdom requirement under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This legislation does not require a government to inform an overseas police force of someone who has been required to register who is then posted to that country.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of the armed forces have been placed on the sex offender register. [41323]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* This information is not held as it would require a convicted individual to declare themselves as a former member of the armed forces.

Bermuda: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources his Department provides for soldiers in the Bermuda Regiment. [43891]

Nick Harvey: The Bermuda Regiment is funded entirely by the Bermuda Government. The Ministry of Defence provides two Army personnel from the Royal Anglian Regiment to advise and assist the Bermuda Regiment and this arrangement is also largely funded by the Bermuda Government.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether there is any mechanism for soldiers in the Bermuda Regiment to obtain uniforms directly from his Department; [43892]

(2) what arrangements there are for soldiers in the Bermuda Regiment to procure their uniforms; and if he will make a statement. [43893]

Nick Harvey: There is no mechanism in place for soldiers in the Bermuda Regiment to obtain their uniforms from the Ministry of Defence.

The Bermuda Regiment is self-funded by the Government of Bermuda and has its own process for procuring uniforms and other equipment.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements there are to make British Army training manuals available to soldiers of the Bermuda Regiment; and if he will make a statement. [43894]

Nick Harvey: The Bermuda Regiment can apply for British Army training manuals through their UK Defence Attaché, who will pass the request to the appropriate training establishment or issuing authority where it will be vetted and processed accordingly.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many places on British Army training courses have been allocated to soldiers of the Bermuda Regiment in each of the last 10 years. [43895]

Nick Harvey: No places on British Army training courses are directly allocated to the Bermuda Regiment or any other Defence force. Should soldiers from the Bermuda Regiment wish to attend a training course, they must apply to the appropriate training authority and places are allocated according to availability and priority.

The number of soldiers of the Bermuda Regiment who have attended British Army training courses in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table:

	Number of Bermuda Regiment personnel attending training
2000-01	15
2001-02	13
2002-03	18
2003-04	21
2004-05	14
2005-06	12
2006-07	19
2007-08	8
2008-09	18
2009-10	8

Blue Force

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance his Department is offering to serving and former members of HM armed forces who have lost money as a result of property deals undertaken with (i) Blue Force Property and (ii) Blue Force Services; and if he will make a statement. [41704]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* We have issued advice through the chain of command for those service personnel who may be affected. However, the Ministry of Defence cannot provide any financial assistance to serving or former members of HM armed forces who have lost money as a result of a private company going into liquidation. Serving personnel who believe they may be affected should consult their chain of command. Former service personnel can contact their local citizens advice bureau or the insolvency practitioners B and C Associates.

Civil Emergencies: Community Relations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has spent on measures to develop community resilience to civil emergencies since May 2010; and how much he has allocated for such purposes over the comprehensive spending review period; [43971]

(2) what measures his Department has put in place to develop community resilience to civil emergencies since May 2010. [43973]

Nick Harvey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 580W.

Defence has a long history of providing a wide range of military support to the civil authorities in the event of a civil emergency. Defence normally provides support where the civil community requires specialist capabilities it does not have or additional capacity due to the severity of the emergency, such as during the severe weather which affected large parts of the United Kingdom in December 2010. Defence engages closely with local and regional responders and resilience organisations through its network of joint regional liaison officers who provide advice and guidance on the provision of Defence capabilities.

Military support when provided at the request of, and in support of, other Government Departments, is normally provided on a reimbursement basis.

Defence

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures his Department has put in place to respond to *(a)* terrorist attacks using unconventional materials, *(b)* major tidal or coastal flooding and *(c)* a severe influenza pandemic since May 2010. [43942]

Nick Harvey: Defence holds a range of specialist capabilities which can be deployed to support the police in the event of a terrorist attack in the UK. I am withholding the details of those capabilities as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Defence also plays a full part in cross-Government work to address potential civil emergencies including severe flooding and the possibility of an influenza pandemic. Defence has a long history of providing a wide range of support in the event of a civil emergency where the civil community requires specialist capabilities or additional capacity. Defence has provided assistance during severe weather outbreaks, including flooding and during the flu pandemic outbreak during 2009. This support continues to be available through the long established mechanism of military aid to the civil authorities.

Defence: Finance

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for spending by his Department to enhance the UK's ability to tackle civil emergencies. [43940]

Nick Harvey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 580W.

Defence has a long history of providing assistance in the event of a civil emergency, providing specialist capabilities which may not be available in the civil community or augmenting civil capacity if it is overwhelmed by the scale of an event. Military assistance is normally provided on a reimbursement basis at the request of, and in support of, other Government Departments.

Defence: Information and Communications Technology

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made on the development of the cyber operations memorandum of understanding; and if he will make a statement. [43939]

Nick Harvey: International engagement is critical to the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s response to the challenges it faces in cyberspace. As part of a wider international programme which is coordinated by the Cabinet Office, the MOD is working with key allies to develop an enhanced relationship on Defence-related cyber issues. It is anticipated that this activity will result in development of new memorandum of understandings with key allies.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department were in the Civil Service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44347]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) manages its surplus staff by using the Redeployment Pool (RDP). This service enables those who are or who will become surplus to be given priority consideration for vacancies. Staff in the RDP usually continue to work in their last directorate or are redeployed to cover short-term tasks. The RDP is also used by staff returning from overseas postings, including civilians supporting the armed services in operational theatres. The MOD is currently subject to a freeze on external recruitment and the RDP helps us to fill vacancies from within existing staff resources.

The latest available data are as at 1 January 2011, when there were 1,320 people in the RDP. Of these, 650 had been in the RDP for more than six months. These figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Departmental Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid in bonuses to civil servants in 2009-10; how many bonuses were paid; what the aggregate monetary value of those bonuses was; and what the highest bonus paid was. [37331]

Mr Robathan: Officials in the Ministry of Defence are currently collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Andrew Robathan to Angus Robertson:

I undertook to write to you in my response to your Parliamentary Question about civil servants' bonuses on 7 February (Official Report column 27W).

A close and effective link between pay and performance is an important element of the reward arrangements for the Civil Service. The payments reflect the individual's performance during the previous year, and are therefore a direct and immediate award to those who have achieved challenging objectives. The performance element of pay is known, colloquially but misleadingly, as a bonus. In fact, the performance-related element of pay is an integral part of an individual's pay and not an addition to it: it is funded from the core pay bill. The non-consolidated element of pay has increased over the years as consolidated pay awards have formed a lower percentage of the total pay bill. They are a cost effective way of rewarding staff because there is no assumption that the awards will be repeated the following year, so they do not add to future pay bill growth, and because they are not pensionable.

The MOD also operates an in-year non-consolidated payment scheme, the Special Bonus Scheme (SBS), which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance of a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification the use of which benefits MOD and the individual.

For the Senior Civil Service (SCS), performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments. Any award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers, with groups of proposed awards judged by panels of senior staff, who make awards to the individuals who have made the greatest in-year contribution to business objectives.

Senior Fixed Term employees are individuals who are recruited through fair and open competition from outside the civil service. Those employed as Senior Fixed Term Appointees (FTAs) are on individual contracts and have a higher percentage of pay set to performance awards which are judged against stringent and stretching delivery based objectives. Some of these payments are paid in stages, and it is now usual to pay only part of the performance award immediately with the remainder deferred for two to three years and judged against the delivery of medium to longer term objectives.

Performance is judged by line management with assistance from senior officials, stakeholders, remuneration committees and in some cases internal audit.

The total values of non consolidated end of year performance pay made by the Department, the total numbers paid and the values of the highest awards are shown below:

Grade	*Value of payments (£)*	*Numbers of payments*	*Highest award paid (£)*	*Average award paid (£)*
SCS	1,594,500	195	15,000	8,177
Snr FTA	838,393	27	84,563	31,052
Below SCS	40,248,079	58,096	5,635	693

The total value of non consolidated in-year performance payments made by the Department through the SBS, the number paid and the value of the highest award is shown below:

Grade	*Value of payments (£)*	*Number of payments*	*Highest award paid (£)*
Below SCS	4,030,103	8,573	2,000

These figures update information provided in previous answers to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington 24 June 2010 (Official Report column 289W), and the hon. Member for Witham 11 November 2010 (Official Report column 439W).

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44215]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence's central contracts database has no record since 2005 of payments to Electoral Reform Services.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason there is a difference between the 6,000 recorded exposures to radiation in the UK atomic tests reported to the House on 19 December 1984, *Official Report*, columns 389-98, and the number of recorded exposures admitted to by his Department in recent High Court proceedings. [43771]

Mr Robathan: The figures given in 1984 in relation to the number of recorded exposures to radiation covered all the UK atomic tests. The personal injury group action is not concerned with all the tests and therefore the figure provided in the Ministry of Defence's defence is different.

HMS Victory

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from the National Museum of the Royal Navy on the future management of the wreck of HMS Victory 1744. [43740]

Mr Robathan: The National Museum of the Royal Navy has made no representations on the future management of the wreck of HMS Victory.

Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential savings resulting from a reduction in the initial order of Joint Stroke Fighters from 138 to 40 in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [43902]

Peter Luff: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 853W, to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the condition was of each of the five BAe 125 aircraft sold by his Department in 2007; and how many hours had been flown in the aircraft in total at the date of sale. [43986]

Peter Luff: Prior to their disposal in 2007, the five BAe 125 aircraft (Dominie T1 RAF variant) had been in service for over 40 years and were no longer fit to fly. Towards the end of their service life they had been used for ground training of RAF personnel. Before being sold through a widely advertised competition, all equipment and systems that could be used on other in-service aircraft was removed.

While in service, each airframe had been flown for between 12,000 and 17,000 hours, a total for the five aircraft of 72,496 hours.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many VC-10 aircraft 101 Squadron has; how many are in service at present; and what their commitments are. [44336]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* 101 Squadron is the only squadron to operate the VC-10 aircraft. The number of VC-10 aircraft in the in-service fleet is 13. In-service aircraft include all bar those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

The number of VC-10 aircraft available to 101 Squadron from the in-service fleet will vary from day to day as part of normal fleet management activities including routine and mandated maintenance programmes. VC-10 aircraft operate from a number of locations around the world carrying out a range of military tasks.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has for passing on to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the costs to the public purse of military transport commissioned by that Department. [44401]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* Charging for any assistance will be in accordance with Her Majesty's Treasury guidance in "Managing Public Money".

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department reached agreement with the US administration on freehold arrangements affecting *(a)* buildings, *(b)* fixed assets and infrastructure and *(c)* the site at Menwith Hill [44650]

Mr Robathan: Arrangements covering the freehold of buildings, fixed assets and infrastructure at all United States Visiting Force (USVF) sites, including RAF Menwith Hill, are covered in the UK/US Cost Sharing Arrangement (CSA) dated 1973. This document updated the initial CSA from 1953. The Ministry of Defence has made the site at RAF Menwith Hill available to the USVF since 1960.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 990W, on USA: military bases, what the location is of each area on United States Visiting Forces bases which is held on a leasehold basis. [44651]

Mr Robathan: The following table details the areas at the United States Visiting Force bases which are held on a leasehold basis:

	Area	*Total Hectares*
RAF Croughton	Pumping Station (3 separate areas)	0.01
		0.01
		0.059
RAF Fairford	Landing Lights	0.041
RAF Lakenheath	Vehicle Holding Area	1.28
	Leased Area of Lords Walk	0.908
RAF Mildenhall	Waterworks Access	0.074

Military Aircraft: Operating Costs

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operating cost per flight hour is of the *(a)* Tornado GR4, *(b)* Tornado F3 and *(c)* Typhoon FGR4 aircraft. [44688]

Peter Luff: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 928W, to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

Military Exercises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has plans to conduct joint exercises with *(a)* Indian, *(b)* Sri Lankan and *(c)* Indonesian military personnel. [45112]

Nick Harvey: The United Kingdom is committed to an enhanced partnership with India and we have an extensive defence relationship which includes regular bi-lateral exercises across all three services. This year, planning is under way for an Army exercise between July and August in the UK and a Navy Command post exercise in the autumn in India. There are no plans for joint exercises with Sri Lanka or Indonesia.

Navy

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* his Department's policy on the deployment of a private anti-piracy fleet in the Gulf of Aden by the shipping industry. [43665]

Nick Harvey: Her Majesty's Government (HMG) is aware of ongoing debate in the private sector on the possible contribution that private military security companies could make to the international community's counter-piracy response. HMG remains open to proposals which seek to assist in combating piracy off the Horn of Africa.

Any proposal of this nature would need to operate in a clear framework and be properly co-ordinated and de-conflicted with all international naval forces operating in the region, including the three multi-national counter-piracy missions in which the Royal Navy operates. Such a concept would also need to comply with applicable international law.

Nimrod Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential savings resulting from the cancellation of Nimrod in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [43978]

Peter Luff: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister for the Armed Forces, the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 445W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow South (Mr Harris) and the hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (Jonathan Reynolds).

Radio Frequencies

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fee he expects his Department to pay Ofcom for the use of its spectrum holdings in the financial year 2011-12. [44743]

Peter Luff: £155 million.

RAF Valley

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what civilian contractors work at RAF Valley; and in what capacity. [44880]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence does not record the number of civilian contractors at RAF Valley as this is a matter for the contractor. Contractors provide an extensive range of support services including: estates and facilities management; aircraft maintenance and support; flying training delivery; search and rescue maintenance and operational support; hotel, catering and leisure; and bird control.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures his Department has put in place to meet its commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review to *(a)* strengthen international commitments to non-proliferation treaties and *(b)* refocus critical programmes for building security overseas. [43967]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and other Departments to deliver the commitments in the strategic defence and security review (SDSR).

The Government are committed to publishing a building stability overseas strategy by spring 2011. This strategy will look wider than just security and will examine how we can prioritise and use our defence, diplomatic and development tools to support inclusive politics, economic growth and stronger institutions as the base for building global stability and resilience.

The UK considers the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. We announced a number of significant disarmament measures in the SDSR, which demonstrated our commitment to the NPT. We are also working closely with both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states to make progress on the May 2010 Review Conference Action Plan, which covers all three NPT pillars (disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses).

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is the key international instrument for biological disarmament. MOD's overriding interest in the BTWC is to minimise the risks that biological weapons will be used by state and non-state actors against UK interests, including our deployed UK forces. We aim to do this by ensuring that the BTWC is being strengthened in a way that increases its deterrent, transparency, confidence building, and investigative value. The UK is working closely with the EU and allied partners towards the seventh review conference of the BTWC in December 2011, with the UK objective: of strengthening the convention.

The chemical weapons convention is a successful international instrument for chemical disarmament which has already seen the verifiable destruction of more than 63% of the world's declared chemical weapons. MOD expertise and engagement underpins the leading role the UK takes with the EU and allies in the work to implement and strengthen the convention.

The Global Threat Reduction Programme (GTRP), the UK's contribution to the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, remains a priority for the UK. It is a key element in the UK's work to ensure that chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials and expertise are out of reach to terrorist groups or hostile states. As part of GTRP, the MOD's biological non-proliferation programme continues to develop in scale and geographical range to support these aims. Projects have included activities such as strengthening biosafety and biosecurity, promoting the use of biological agents for peaceful purposes, and contributing to implementation of the BTWC. DECC delivers the nuclear and radiological elements of the programme, while the MOD managed the now-complete programme of assistance to Russia with chemical weapons destruction.

The GTRP also provides assistance that enables countries to meet their international commitments including to United Nations Security Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540), which requires the adoption and enforcement of controls to prohibit non-state actors from acquiring the ability to deliver a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack.

Vanguard Submarine

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Islington North of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 806W, how much of the £330 million allocated to the programme to replace the Vanguard submarine in financial year 2010-11 has been spent in each cost category to date. [43510]

Nick Harvey: To the end of February 2011, £219.05 million had been consumed on the Vanguard submarine replacement programme, comprising Resource Department Expenditure Limit of £178.18 million, and Capital Department Expenditure Limit of £40.87 million.

Royal Navy Ships

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current location is of *(a)* HMS Ocean, *(b)* HMS Bulwark and *(c)* HMS Albion; and what the current duties of each are. [44280]

Nick Harvey: On 3 March 2011, HMS Ocean was in the south coast exercise area conducting operational sea training. HMS Bulwark has recently come out of a refit period and is conducting trials and training from Devonport. HMS Albion is currently alongside at Devonport for routine maintenance and is available for operational tasking.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* type is of each (i) frigate and (ii) destroyer to be decommissioned over the next five years. [44737]

Mr Robathan: Under our present planning assumptions, the following frigates and destroyers will be withdrawn from service over the next five years:

	Frigates and destroyers
HMS Campbeltown	Type 22 frigate
HMS Cumberland	Type 22 frigate
HMS Cornwall	Type 22 frigate
HMS Gloucester	Type 42 destroyer
HMS Liverpool	Type 42 destroyer
HMS York	Type 42 destroyer
HMS Edinburgh	Type 42 destroyer

Although the decision to withdraw the Type 22 frigates was taken as part of the strategic defence and security review, we had already planned to withdraw the Type 42 destroyers and replace them with the Type 45 destroyers.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of ships required to counter *(a)* immediate and *(b)* long-term threats to the UK. [44738]

Nick Harvey: Our future requirement for naval forces was assessed during the strategic defence and security review and set out in the White Paper "Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (Cm 7948)". Potential short-term threats to UK interests are continually reviewed and the Royal Navy's present force structure is judged to be sufficient to meet our immediate security requirements.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43761]

Gregory Barker: The National Audit Office provides the external audit service for the Department and its four executive non-departmental public bodies. The costs of this work for the last three completed financial years are given in the following table. In the case of the Department these are notional, and no actual payment is made. The Department and the Committee on Climate Change were established during 2008-09 so figures for 2007-08 are not applicable.

			£000
	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Department of Energy and Climate Change	190	200	n/a
Civil Nuclear Police Authority	44	44	42
Coal Authority	57	39	75
Committee on Climate Change	27	20	n/a
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	976	960	880

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45080]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has not sold and leased back any assets in the last 12 months.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) non-departmental public body and (B) non-ministerial department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43958]

Gregory Barker: The costs of the procurement function in my Department and the non-departmental public bodies I am responsible for are presented in the following table.

In all cases there is no separate outsourcing function in the organisations for which I am responsible. The costs of administering outsourcing arrangements is included within the procurement functions of those organisations.

Organisation	*Cost of procurement function (2009-10) (£)*
Department of Energy and Climate Change[1]	261,000
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority[1]	443,947
Civil Nuclear Police Authority[1]	301,000
Coal Authority[2]	193,053
Committee on Climate Change[2, 3]	0

[1] Source: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/back-office-benchmark-information-200910

[2] Source—Internal records

[3] Committee on Climate Change does not have a separate procurement function, procurement is undertaken by finance staff, costs of procurement activities are not separately identified.

Information is not held by the Department for the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), a non-ministerial department for which I am responsible. As an organisation with fewer than 250 staff, Ofgem was not included in the Cabinet Office benchmarking study which makes the costs of procurement functions publicly available. Details could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44217]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not spent anything with Electoral Reform Services since its creation in October 2008.

Electricity

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will use powers under Section 14(3) of the Planning Act 2008 to include electricity network infrastructure projects that are underground or sub-sea in the list of nationally significant infrastructure projects. [43229]

Charles Hendry: Installation of underground cables is permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (1995) as amended. In view of these permitted development rights there is generally no need for proposals for the underground cable elements of a project to be caught by the Planning Act regime, although (in England) it would be possible for the developer to include aspects of an underground scheme other than the cable itself (such as sealing end compounds) in a Planning Act application as associated development. Other than in these specific cases, in view of these permitted development rights, I do not consider there to be a case to require developers to obtain consent for installation of underground cables under the Planning Act regime, which would amount to a significant extra burden on developers.

Applications for sub-sea cables are considered by the Marine Management Organisation under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA), to be superseded in April this year by a new marine licensing regime under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Infrastructure Planning Commission in England can consent a sub-sea cable as associated development if it forms part of the infrastructure for an offshore generating station by granting a deemed FEPA Licence or marine licence under (respectively) section 149 or 149(A) of the Planning Act.

I consider these arrangements to be adequate at this stage and do not intend to require applications for sub-sea cables to be included in the list of nationally significant infrastructure projects in the Planning Act.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he took into account the effect on the time taken to achieve electricity connections by means of underground cables of the failure of National Grid and relevant landowners to come to agreement under existing planning arrangements in specifying the list of projects classified as nationally significant infrastructure projects under section 14(1) of the Planning Act 2008. [43345]

Charles Hendry: Installation of underground cables is permitted development under the Town and Country Planning Act (General Permitted Development) Order (1995) as amended. In view of these permitted development rights there is generally no need for proposals for the underground cable elements of a project to be caught by the Planning Act regime, although (in England) it would be possible for the developer to include aspects of an underground scheme other than the cable itself (such as sealing end compounds) in a Planning Act application as associated development.

Energy Supply: Wychavon

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in the Wychavon District Council area did not have a mains supply for *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas in the latest period for which figures are available. [43775]

Gregory Barker: Data on the number of households by local authority without an electricity or gas mains supply are not available.

An estimate of the number of households off the gas grid at Government office region can be derived using data from the English House Survey (EHS), produced by DCLG. In 2008, based on the EHS, there were around 281,000 households in the West Midlands that did not have a mains gas connection. The number of households without a mains electricity connection is too small to be reliably estimated from a sample survey such as the EHS.

Energy: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how he expects energy efficiency improvements to be measured following the repeal of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 by the provisions of the Energy Bill. [44631]

Gregory Barker: The Government reports, in October each year, on progress in meeting the UK carbon budgets (sector by sector) in response to the Committee on Climate Change's annual progress reports every June.

In addition to these existing reporting mechanisms, from 2012 there will be detailed reporting of energy efficiency measures to support the forthcoming Green Deal and the future Energy Company Obligation. The Energy Bill seeks powers for reporting purposes allowing the Secretary of State to define what information should be reported and how often, including detailed information on measures delivered in individual properties.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on preparations for the recruitment, training and deployment of *(a)* independent energy surveyors and *(b)* appropriately qualified installers to assess home energy use in homes participating in the Green Deal. [44871]

Gregory Barker: I am working closely with the appropriate ministerial colleagues across Government to ensure that robust and high quality standards are in place for all assessors and installers operating under the Green Deal. At the end of 2010, DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government issued a Call for Evidence seeking views on how to improve the energy performance of buildings in support of the Green Deal, including qualifications arrangements for energy assessors. We have also set up advisory forums for both the assessment and installation stages of the Green Deal. Through these forums we will work with the private, public and voluntary sectors to ensure that industry is appropriately supported and prepared to train and recruit the necessary people ahead of the Green Deal launch. Further information on the forums is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the need for incentives to encourage households to take part in the Green Deal. [44872]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will be a market-led initiative and we expect providers to develop packages that are attractive for consumers including a range of marketing incentives. However, to help gauge potential take-up we have commissioned a number of pieces of social research to assess how to make the Green Deal most attractive to consumers. The research will be completed prior to this autumn's consultation on the Green Deal.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to oversee the work of energy-saving installers under the Green Deal; by what means they will be selected; and what steps he plans to take to measure their cost and performance. [44877]

Gregory Barker: It will be key to the success of the Green Deal that all work to install energy efficiency measures is carried out to a high standard. We are therefore establishing a Green Deal installer certification framework, which will ensure that all work has carried out by companies using competent individuals, following the necessary technical guidance, and supported by appropriate customer care procedures and routes of redress. Only companies that have been certified and authorised to carry the Green Deal quality mark will be work under the Green Deal. The details of this framework are being discussed with the Green Deal installation stakeholder advisory forum, and will be set out in due course in secondary legislation.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 17 February 2011, Official Report, column 911W, on energy: housing, what consideration he has given to measures to increase the level of take-up of cost-effective abatement measures in the private rented market; and if he will make a statement. [44625]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will enable the take up of cost effective abatement measures at no upfront cost. Commercial organisations will want to market their Green Deal to raise awareness of its benefits amongst landlords and tenants alike. We will continue to work with landlord associations and industry groups to ensure all communication channels are used.

Environment Protection

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of zero-carbon technology (a) his Department uses and (b) is used in the Revised Draft Overarching National Policy Statements on Energy; and if he will make a statement. [44315]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not have a definition of zero-carbon technology and the revised draft energy National Policy Statements do not define or use this term.

DECC has a definition of the term carbon neutral: through a transparent process of calculating emissions, reducing those emissions and offsetting residual emissions – net carbon emissions equal zero. Further information can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/neutrality/neutrality.aspx

Environment Protection: Metals

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment has been made of the potential cost to firms developing green technologies of sourcing rare earth metals from *(a)* China, *(b)* the US, *(c)* Canada and *(d)* South Africa; and if he will make a statement; [44518]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effects on the environment of importing rare earth metals from *(a)* China, *(b)* the US, *(c)* Canada and *(d)* South Africa for use in the green technologies industry; and if he will make a statement. [44519]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, Column 616W.

I understand that China is the dominant supplier of rare earth metals, although a number of other countries (including the US, Japan and Australia) have their own reserves which are likely to become available after 2014.

Given this and my understanding that the use of rare earth metals is almost non-existent in commercial-scale turbines in this country, there is no evidence that such assessments are needed at present. I am happy to consider any evidence to the contrary.

Fuel Poverty

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to revise his Department's definition of fuel poverty. [44575]

Gregory Barker: The coalition government announced in the spending review that, to ensure the available resources are focused most effectively in tackling the problems underlying fuel poverty, an independent review of the fuel poverty target and definition would be initiated. We expect the review to get under way shortly and to receive a final report from the review by the end of the year.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent contesting claims by sufferers of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease prior to the introduction of the compensation scheme in 1999. [44261]

Charles Hendry: The liabilities for British Coal were transferred to the Department on 1 January 1998. On 23 January 1998 the Honourable Mr Justice Turner gave Judgment against the British Coal Corporation in respect of 8 lead actions in which damages were sought for personal injury and damage predominantly in respect of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and chronic bronchitis. During the period January 1998 to September 1999 claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease which were registered against the British Coal Corporation were not progressed individually pending the negotiation and finalisation of the Claims Handling Agreement. During this period the Department spent c£552,000.00 on legal fees (solicitors and experts) to meet the Department's obligations for negotiating the Claims Handling Agreement with a Steering Group representing the interests of claimants. The Claims Handling Agreement was signed off on 24 September 1999.

Oil: Offshore Industry

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of introducing legislative proposals to repeal all existing enabling legislation promoting further oil exploration in hard-to-reach areas in UK waters. [44629]

Charles Hendry: No, I envisage no such proposals. We have robust regulatory systems in the UK to protect the environment and ensure safe working. It is very much in Britain's interests for as much as possible of our future oil and gas supplies to be produced here, rather than in other countries which may not maintain the same standards.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department receives any revenue from electricity feed-in tariffs. [44581]

Gregory Barker: At present DECC does not generate any low-carbon energy from its estate and therefore does not derive any revenue from electricity feed-in tariffs.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Access to Learning Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been allocated to the Access to Learning Fund in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [44579]

Mr Willetts: The Access to Learning Fund (ALF) is a discretionary fund that provides additional support for higher education students facing financial hardship. ALF is administered by individual Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges that make their own decisions about how best to target their allocation, taking into account their student population and their knowledge of local circumstances. In the academic year 2009-10 (the most recent year for which we have data) the ALF was used to help around 89,000 full or part-time students.

The ALF budget is announced one year at a time. The allocation for 2011/12 is £40 million. The following table shows how much funding was allocated by the Department to ALF in each of the past five years. Reductions in the ALF budget should be viewed in the context of improved statutory support for students.

Academic year	*Allocation (£ million)*
2006/07	64
2007/08	56
2008/09	50
2009/10	45
2010/11	40

Charity Research Support Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to the Charity Research Support Fund in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [44606]

Mr Willetts: The Government recognise the significant contribution made by charitable funders of research. The charity support element of quality-related (QR) research funding, provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), has recognised the public benefit arising from research funded by charities. HEFCE funding for this element is set out in the following table.

	Amount (£ million)
2006-07	135.7
2007-08	180.0
2008-09	184.9
2009-10	192.1
2010-11	197.5

"Allocation of Science and Research Funding 2011-2015", published on 20 December 2010, confirmed that HEFCE will protect support for institutions leveraging funding from external sources, such as the charitable and business sectors. HEFCE announced on 2 February that they would maintain the charity support element of QR at £197.5 million for 2011-12. It will be for the HEFCE board to determine the levels of funding to deploy in future from within its overall research allocation. "Allocation of Science and Research Funding 2011-2015" is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Dec/science-research-and-hefce-funding

Citizens Advice Bureaux: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations his Department consulted in developing its policy on future funding of citizens advice bureaux in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the Compact between Government and civil society organisations; what feedback his Department has given to the consultees in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of the Compact; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that policy on local efforts to inspire and encourage social action and to empower communities in accordance with paragraph 2.2 of the Compact. [44447]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills supports the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales and in Scotland through grant-in-aid funding to the umbrella organisations and that funding is being maintained in 2011/12. However, funding for local citizens advice bureaux is not a matter for central Government but for local authorities who are better able to determine the structure and level of funding of advice services in their area which meets local needs.

Local spending decisions are, and will continue to be, for local authorities. However, the Government do not expect local authorities to respond to this freedom by passing on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector. Local authorities should work through funding changes with the voluntary sector, and have due regard to their local compact.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44214]

Mr Davey: Central records show that the value of contracts placed with Electoral Reform Services in each financial year by the Department and its predecessors since 2005 has been:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	587.50
2007-08	352.50
2008-09	470.00
2009-10	460.00
2010-11	470.00

Gangmasters: Licensing

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to end licensing for employment agencies and gangmasters operating in the sectors covered by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. [41680]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no plans to end licensing of labour providers in the sectors regulated by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the University Modernisation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [44715]

Mr Willetts: The University Modernisation Fund provided teaching grants in the 2010/11 academic year for an extra 10,000 student places. Under the rules of the scheme, teaching costs for subsequent years would be met from efficiencies within those institutions taking up the places, rather than from Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) grant. In addition, £20 million was invested in projects to increase the take-up and effectiveness of shared services in the sector. Although all of the additional places were taken up and projects are in place to utilise the shared services element of the fund, it is too early to make an assessment of its effectiveness.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been allocated to the University Modernisation Fund in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [44716]

Mr Willetts: The University Modernisation Fund announced in the budget of March 2010 was intended to provide funding for 2010-11 only. The emergency Budget in June 2010 set the level of funding at £152 million.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many universities were awarded New University Challenge funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England in the latest period for which figures are available. [44879]

Mr Willetts: The New University Challenge was a policy of the previous Government. No universities have received funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for this policy and HEFCE did not receive specific allocations to spend on this policy. In the forthcoming Higher Education White

Paper, the Government will set out reforms which will reduce barriers to new providers and better enable student choice to determine the nature and place of delivery of higher education.

Holiday Leave

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to provide information to small employers on statutory holiday entitlement. [43663]

Mr Davey: Information and guidance about statutory annual leave entitlements is available to employees on the Business Link website, which is designed to be helpful to businesses of all sizes. This site also has an interactive tool to assist with the calculation of annual leave provisions. Information is also available from ACAS online and through their helpline and on the Direct.gov website.

Insolvency

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been declared insolvent in each *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency since May 2010. [44860]

Mr Davey: Regional insolvency figures are only compiled annually, and data for 2010 will not be available until summer 2011.

The latest publication down to local authority level covers all types of individual insolvency in England and Wales from 2000 to 2009 and can be found on the Insolvency Service website at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm

Local Enterprise Partnerships: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of bids submitted by the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership as at 21 January 2011 under the auspices of the Regional Growth Fund; and if he will make a statement. [44441]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible to place copies of bids in the Libraries of the House as the information has been provided to us in confidence and the Department would like to respect this confidentiality. However, a summary of bids received in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund is available on the BIS website:

www.bis.gov.uk/RGF

Neurology: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to research into neuroscience in each of the last five years; and how much such funding will be allocated in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [44725]

Mr Willetts: Both the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) fund research into aspects of neurosciences. Each council is a non-departmental public body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The total annual spend for BBSRC research relevant to neuroscience for the past five years is detailed in the following table.

Total annual spend

					£ million
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
BBSRC funding for research relevant to neuroscience[1]	28.3	31.8	35.2	39.5	40.4

[1] Includes funding through the following mechanisms: responsive mode, initiatives, fellowships to HEIs and BBSRC institutes and core strategic funding to BBSRC institutes.

BBSRC does not have fixed allocations for neuroscience funding. Future funding of neuroscience research by BBSRC is dependent on the quality and strategic relevance of grant applications. Funding will be allocated over the next four years in relation to relevance to BBSRC's strategic priorities and BBSRC's four-year spending review settlement. A smaller part of that neuroscience research historically funded by BBSRC now falls within BBSRC's current strategic priorities. It is likely, therefore, that there will be a reduction in BBSRC funding over the next spending review period for neuroscience research that is considered to fall outside BBSRC's strategic priorities. A precise level of funding for future neuroscience funding cannot be stated since, until BBSRC has received applications and their relevance and quality has been assessed, it will be difficult to determine, but as a broad estimate, not an allocation, which is all that is possible at this stage, BBSRC believe that their total neuroscience funding might run at approximately £36 million/year.

The total annual spend for MRC research relevant to neuroscience and mental health for the past five years is detailed in the following table.

Total annual spend

					£ million
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
MRC funding for research relevant to neuroscience and mental health	108.1	108.7	121.7	141.5	155.4

The MRC's Delivery Plan for the spending review period 2011/12 to 2014/15 outlines plans to increase funding in research into mental health, neurodegeneration, and addiction. The MRC therefore expects to see an increase in funding for neuroscience, but the exact level of funding will be dependent on the quality and strategic relevance of grant applications received.

New Businesses

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department plans to review the Technology Strategy Board rules on research contracts with start-up businesses and micro-businesses. [44571]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board only issues research and development contracts in relation to the Small Business Research Initiative scheme and the terms and conditions of these contracts are determined by public procurement rules.

The Technology Strategy Board also issues grant offer letters to businesses under activities such as Collaborative R and D and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) which operate within state aid rules and are consistent with the terms and conditions designed and operated by the then DTI, which previously delivered such interventions. However, the Technology Strategy Board operates these interventions flexibly, recognising the dynamics of the sector at which they are targeted resulting in for example, a feasibility studies scheme to enable small and micro companies to buy in expertise from universities in the area of the creative industries; and shorter term, flexible KTPs focused on smaller companies not requiring a more in depth, longer term project.

The Technology Strategy Board will be the subject of a formal five-yearly review in 2012 which will assess its performance including its ability to engage with a range of businesses.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many sub-post office branches closed *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each local authority area in the East of England in each year since 1997. [44237]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Holidays

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the economy of the replacement of the May Day bank holiday by a bank holiday in October. [44148]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Government have made no assessment yet of the effects of the replacement of the May Day bank holiday with a bank holiday in October for any sector.

In the recent Tourism Strategy, DCMS has announced plans to conduct a full consultation and impact assessment on possibly moving the May Day bank holiday. Further details on the consultation will be published in due course.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the replacement of the May Day bank holiday by a bank holiday in October on the *(a)* horticultural and *(b)* do-it-yourself retail sectors. [44149]

Mr Davey: *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Government have made no assessment yet of the effects of the replacement of the May Day bank holiday with a bank holiday in October for any sector.

In the recent Tourism Strategy, DCMS has announced plans to conduct a full consultation and impact assessment on possibly moving the May Day bank holiday. Further details on the consultation will be published in due course.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the replacement of the May Day bank holiday by a bank holiday in October. [44170]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Government regularly receives representations requesting additional bank holidays or for existing ones to be moved to a new date.

In the recent Tourism Strategy DCMS has announced plans to conduct a full consultation and impact assessment on possibly moving the May Day bank holiday. Further details on the consultation will be published in due course.

Students: Finance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students normally resident in the Suffolk local education authority area applied for *(a)* student loans and *(b)* grants for the (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 academic years. [44203]

Mr Willetts: It is not possible to provide the proportions requested because figures for higher education courses in further education colleges are not available at local authority level.

The number of full-time students, residing in the local authority of Suffolk when they applied for financial support, who were awarded student loans or grants in academic years 2008/09 to 2010/11 is shown in Table 1. Figures for academic year 2010/11 are provisional and subject to change; final figures will be published in November 2011.

Table 1: Students awarded student loans or grants who were living in Suffolk local authority when they applied for financial support

	Academic years		
Type of financial support	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*[1]
Loans[2]	10,100	11,100	11,000

Table 1: Students awarded student loans or grants who were living in Suffolk local authority when they applied for financial support

	Academic years		
Type of financial support	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*[1]
Grants and Allowances[3]	6,200	6,600	6,000

[1] Provisional.

[2] This includes maintenance and tuition fee loans

[3] This includes Higher Education grants, Special Support grants, Maintenance grants, Tuition Fee grants, Disabled Student allowances, Travel grants, Childcare grants, Dependants grants, Parental Learning allowances and Adult Dependant grants.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Access to Learning Fund; and if he will make a statement. [44717]

Mr Willetts: The Access to Learning Fund (ALF) is a discretionary fund that provides additional support for higher education students facing financial hardship. The Government have provided an ALF budget of £40 million for academic year 2010/11. ALF is administered by individual higher education institutions and further education colleges, which make their own decisions about how best to target their allocation, taking into account their student population and their knowledge of local circumstances. In the academic year 2009-10 (the most recent year for which we have data) the ALF was used to help around 89,000 full or part-time students.

Summertime

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the likely effect on faith communities of proposed changes to daylight saving hours. [44645]

Mr Davey: The Government are aware of a range of arguments regarding the effect of moving the clocks forward by one hour on families including faith communities. As the Prime Minister has made it clear that the Government could not support any change in this area unless there was consensus throughout the UK.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Trust Fund

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Air Travel Trust Fund to next report a surplus. [43144]

Mrs Villiers: The Air Travel Trust Fund meets the cost of refunds and repatriation arising from the insolvency of travel companies which are covered by the Air Travel Organisers License (ATOL) scheme. The deficit of the Fund was reported as £31.8m in the Funds' annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010.

One of the objectives of the reforms to the ATOL scheme, which I announced to the House on 3 February 2011, is to reduce the Fund's deficit and return it to financial sustainability. It is expected that the Fund's will be in surplus within 3 years of the reforms being implemented. The precise timing depends on a number of factors, including the frequency and cost of travel company insolvencies.

ATOL Scheme

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timescale he has set for the completion of reform of the ATOL scheme. [43145]

Mrs Villiers: On the 3 February 2011, I announced the Government's 'in principle' decision to reform the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme. A public consultation on the details of the reform, including draft secondary legislation, is planned for spring 2011. Implementation of the new secondary legislation is aimed for late 2011 or early 2012. The Government is also considering the use of primary legislation to complete further ATOL reforms, although no decision on this has yet been taken.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether including click-through arrangements in the ATOL scheme would require primary legislation. [43146]

Mrs Villiers: On 3 February 2011, I announced to the House the Government's 'in principle' decision to reform the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme to ensure consumers are protected in the changing holiday market. Subject to consultation, the intention is for the reforms to be implemented by new secondary legislation in late 2011 or early 2012.

These reforms should mean that Flight Plus holidays organised by a 'click through arrangement' by travel agents or tour operators are protected under the ATOL scheme. The Government is currently considering the case for new primary legislation that would be needed to bring all holidays organised by 'click through arrangements', including those sold by airlines, into the ATOL scheme.

Aviation

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from the aviation industry on the effects of Government policy on that sector. [43281]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), receives regular representations from a wide range of organisations on matters relating to Government aviation policy.

We are committed to producing a sustainable framework for UK aviation which supports economic growth and addresses aviation's environmental impacts. During the policy development process, we will open a dialogue with a variety of stakeholders to seek their views and to draw on the expertise of those who best understand the benefits and impacts of aviation.

Aviation: Pilots

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in 24 hours. [43765]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the maximum amount of time airline pilots should be expected to fly in one day. [43899]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friends to my answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 176, given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon).

Aviation: Security

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce a personnel advanced screening system at UK airports; and if he will make a statement. [41407]

Mrs Villiers: There are no plans to introduce a personnel advanced screening system at UK airports.

One of the basic tenets of aviation security in the UK is that everyone entering the security restricted area of an airport, including staff, is subject to security screening. The Department specifies the standards that must be met, and the methods that may be used, by industry in respect of the screening of passengers and staff. All security measures are kept under review.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the threat to airport and airline security from air crew. [41510]

Mrs Villiers: The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) is responsible for assessing the threat to UK aviation interests from international terrorism. JTAC has assessed the full range of threats to civil aviation, but I cannot comment on individual assessments.

When making their assessment of the risk of an attack, Department for Transport officials take into account information on threat vulnerabilities and potential impacts of attack.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward proposals to enable UK airports to determine their own security procedures for air crew. [43900]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 460W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Aviation: Working Hours

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on safety of the European Aviation Safety Agency's plans to reform flight time limitations. [41406]

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the safety of UK air travel of the European Aviation Safety Agency's proposals for flight time limitations. [41509]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friends to my answer given to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 51W.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess any potential risk to UK air travel posed by the European Aviation Safety Agency's plans to reform flight time limitations. [42062]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friends to my answer of 17 February, *Official Report*, column 966W.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what capital expenditure his Department incurred on the Dartford Crossing in 2010-11; and what such expenditure it expects to incur in each of the next four financial years; [42270]

(2) what estimate he has made of the revenue generated by tolls at the Dartford Crossing in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the next four financial years. [42269]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Details of income and expenditure for the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing charging scheme are published annually, with accounts for the year to 31 March 2010 published on 31 January 2011. Accounts for 2010-11 will be published in due course.

Copies of the 2009-10 accounts are available from the Library of the House and from the following link:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc1011/hc07/0711/0711.asp

The Department for Transport made clear in its spending review announcement that investment at Dartford is a priority, and that subject to consultation, it intends to increase the levels of road user charges in 2011 and 2012 to allow for future investment, including the implementation of free-flow charging technology, and to help fund proposals for a new, additional crossing.

Detailed impacts of such investment on future revenue and capital expenditure will be set out as details of such measures are announced.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect on revenue generated of suspending tolls at the Dartford Crossing in periods of severe congestion. [42271]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Highways Agency is developing an operational protocol to suspend the road user charges at the Dartford Crossing during emergency incidents or when congestion is particularly severe.

The revenue implications from use of the protocol are dependent on the number of occasions where traffic conditions are such that charges are suspended, and the duration of charge suspension period.

We aim to publish details and introduce the use of the protocol as soon as it is possible to do so this year.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010. [42296]

Norman Baker: The central Department and its seven executive agencies identified the following number of *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff to have left the Department's employ since May 2010. The total includes both permanent and non-permanent employees.

(a) The number of actual staff who have left the Department since May 2010 is 1,264 (453 of whom from the central Department).

(b) The number of full-time equivalent staff who have left the Department since May 2010 is 1,162 (439 of whom from the central Department).

Departmental Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked since 7 December 2010. [44361]

Mike Penning: The Department has introduced 19 regulations since 7 December 2010 and the full listing is listed here, correct to 23 February 2011. Of these 19, four revoked or replaced existing legislation.

DFT regulations introduced between 7 December 2010 and 23 February 2011

Title	*Reference number*	*In force*
The Bus Lane Contraventions (Approved Local Authorities) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) and Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions Designation (No. 4) Order 2010	2010 No. 2790	31 December 2010
The Severn Bridges Tolls Order 2010	2010 No. 3002	1 January 2011
The Cornwall Council (Havle North Quay) Bridge Scheme 2010 Confirmation Instrument 2010	2010 No. 3032	6 January 2011
The M1 Motorway (Junctions 10 to 13 Improvement Connecting Roads) Scheme 2010	2010 No. 2824	9 January 2011
The Traffic Management (Northamptonshire County Council) Permit Scheme Order 2010	2010 No. 2823	10 January 2011
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Asbestos) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 2984	10 January 2011
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Artificial Optical Radiation) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 2987	10 January 2011
The Motor Fuel (Composition and Content) and Merchant Shipping(Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 3035	14 January 2011
The Fixed Penalty (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 2720	1 February 2011
The Road Safety (Financial Penalty Deposit) (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 2721	1 February 2011
The Road Safety (Financial Penalty Deposit) (Appropriate Amount) (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 3016	1 February 2011
The River Mersey (Mersey Gateway Bridge) Order 2011	2011 No. 41	1 February 2011
The Shrewsbury (Kingsland) Bridge (Revision of Tolls) Order 2011	2011 No. 71	1 February 2011
The Motor Vehicles (Insurance Requirements) Regulations 2011	2011 No.20	4 February 2011
The Road Safety Act 2006 (Commencement No. 6) Order 2011	2011 No. 19	4 February 2011
The Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) (London Underground Metropolitan Line S8 Vehicles) Exemption Order 2011	2011 No. 70	14 February 2011
The Cobham Motorway Service Area Trunk Road Order 2011	2011 No. 247	23 February 2011
The M25 Motorway (Cobham Motorway Service Area Temporary Special Road) Scheme 2011	2011 No. 248	23 February 2011
The Cobham Motorway Service Area Trunk Road (Connecting Roads) Order 2011	2011 No. 249	23 February 2011

Driving Standards Agency

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the outcome of the comprehensive spending review will have on the review of the Driving Standards Agency; and if he will make a statement. [44520]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is a trading fund and recovers most of its costs through user charges for its services, such as the driving test.

DSA sometimes receives loans from Department for Transport to undertake specific activities and receives funding for the prevention of fraud, both of which are reviewed on an annual basis.

There has not yet been any direct effect on the Agency from the comprehensive spending review.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce plans for the electrification of the main railway line into Wales. [43737]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* On 1 March, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport, announced plans for electrification of the Great Western Main Line to Bristol and Cardiff and the delivery of a new fleet of intercity trains.

I expect passengers from South Wales to enjoy the benefits of this significant investment from 2016 onwards with the full service from the end of 2017.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the full business case on which he based his decision to extend the electrification of the Great Western Line from Didcot to Cardiff, including *(a)* the case for extension to Swansea and *(b)* the case for electrification between Bath and Bristol. [44646]

Mrs Villiers: I am prepared to deposit in the Library of the House details of the business case work which assisted the Department for Transport in determining the further extension of electrification of the Great Western Main Line. Other factors, including affordability and operational aspects, have also been considered as part of the decision making process.

Southeastern Trains: Cancellations

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford of 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 638-40W, on Southeastern, how many rail services operated by Southeastern have been cancelled in each month of the current franchise agreement. [43566]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The requested information is available only for the four-week rail industry reporting periods, and is as follows:

Southeastern cancellations

Reporting period	*Trains cancelled*
April 2006	368
April to May 2006	409
May to June 2006	398
June to July 2006	370
July to August 2006	257
August to September 2006	206
September to October 2006	333
October to November 2006	336
November to December 2006	488
December to January 2007	330
January to February 2007	763
February to March 2007	421
March 2007	548
April 2007	722
April to May 2007	855
May to June 2007	158
June to July 2007	263
July to August 2007	309
August to September 2007	181
September to October 2007	380
October to November 2007	430
November to December 2007	363
December to January 2008	384
January to February 2008	428
February to March 2008	298
March 2008	331
April 2008	434
April to May 2008	419
May to June 2008	275
June to July 2008	420
July to August 2008	307
August to September 2008	335
September to October 2008	391
October to November 2008	376
November to December 2008	480
December to January 2009	320
January to February 2009	510
February to March 2009	2,489
March 2009	570
April to May 2009	276
May 2009	285
May to June 2009	282
June to July 2009	368
July to August 2009	264
August to September 2009	229
September to October 2009	365
October to November 2009	497
November to December 2009	550
December to January 2010	3,643
January to February 2010	1,308
February to March 2010	1,154
March 2010	432
April to May 2010	380
May 2010	536
May to June 2010	532
June to July 2010	563
July to August 2010	374
August to September 2010	458
September to October 2010	832
October to November 2010	333
November to December 2010	1,071
December to January 2011	1,099

Note:
Period 10 2010-11 (12 December 2010 to 9 January 2011) are the latest data available. There are 13 rail periods in a year, usually four weeks in length.

Railway Stations: Public Service Announcements

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which public service announcements are required at railway stations. [44460]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* There is a requirement for public security announcements to be made at rail stations as part of the National Rail Security Programme. Under this programme, announcements are set at a level proportionate to the prevailing threat and vulnerability, and are kept under constant review.

The Department for Transport's code of practice 'Accessible Train Station Design for Disabled People, Version 2', issued in September 2010, sets out various requirements concerning the making of announcements. The number of announcements made will vary depending on the level of service at any given station.

Railways: Construction

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely frequency of replacement of track sections on High Speed Two. [43442]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer my hon. Friend to the Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy section of the Technical Appendix, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/

Railways: Fares

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the revenue to accrue to *(a)* train operating companies and *(b)* his Department attributable to the increase in rail fares by the retail prices index in the next four financial years. [42733]

Mrs Villiers: The retail prices index is part of the ongoing formula for capping rail fares and is taken into account automatically in the levels of premia/subsidy through the franchise agreements with each train operator. Separately, the Government are about to engage with the industry in negotiations on the effect on subsidy/premia of the change in the cap on regulated fares from RPI+1 to RPI+3 for the three years from Jan 2012 to Jan 2014. It would prejudice these discussions to make further details public.

Sea Rescue

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what private finance initiative contracts exist in respect of coastguard services in Scotland; and what the monetary value is of such contracts. [45001]

Mike Penning: No private finance initiative contracts exist in respect of coastguard services in Scotland.

Shipping

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the registered tonnage of the merchant fleet under the UK flag was on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the average tonnage per ship of the UK Flag Registry is. [44736]

Mike Penning: As of 28 February 2011, the registered tonnage of UK registered merchant ships 100 gross tons (GT) and over was 17,030,315 GT.

There were 1,489 ships, giving an average tonnage per ship of 11,437 GT.

Shipping and Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce carbon dioxide emissions attributable to (a) shipping and (b) aviation. [42861]

Norman Baker: The Government recognises the importance of addressing CO_2 emissions from shipping and aviation and we are taking a broad range of measures to reduce these.

The Government is playing an active role in the International Maritime Organisation's work on technical, operational and market based measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from shipping on a global basis, and has submitted a proposal for an emissions trading system to cap shipping emissions in an efficient and cost-effective way. The UK is also working with the European Commission and other Member States to develop a proposal for effective regional action in the event that no international measure has been agreed by the end of 2011.

Since coming to power, the Government has cancelled plans for a third runway at Heathrow and has made clear that it will refuse permission for additional runways at Gatwick and Stansted. The Government has also stated its intention to create a sustainable framework for aviation in the UK, which supports economic growth and addresses aviation's environmental impacts. The Government will issue a scoping document in March 2011 setting out strategic directions on aviation policy.

In the meantime, at a European level the UK is fully on-track to implement the Aviation EU Emissions Trading System from the beginning of 2012, and continues to push internationally for more ambitious global action through the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bermuda

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Bermuda. [43826]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has no immediate plans to visit Bermuda. However, I hope to visit Bermuda later this year.

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43479]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to relocate staff or offices to Brighton. Like other Departments, we liaise closely with the Government Property Unit to determine the level of operational demand for working space in the UK, and to ensure value for money.

Côte d'Ivoire: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the safety of British nationals resident in Côte d'Ivoire. [43829]

Mr Bellingham: We advise against all travel to Côte d'Ivoire. British nationals have since December 2010 been advised to leave the country by commercial means if it is safe to do so. Our Political Counsellor in Abidjan is in close contact through the consular warden network with those British nationals who have not heeded this advice. This conduit allows us to communicate updates on the security situation and any further changes to our travel advice.

We continue to liaise with colleagues in other Departments and international partners to ensure that our information is accurate and our contingency plans are up to date. The safety of British nationals in Côte d'Ivoire is our foremost priority.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 339-40W, on departmental disciplinary proceedings, how many UK-based officials working in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas posts were dismissed on disciplinary grounds in the last five years; and what the overseas post was in each case. [44156]

Alistair Burt: There were fewer than five dismissals in total, on disciplinary grounds, in each of the last five years for UK-based Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff working in both the UK and at our overseas posts. For reasons of confidentiality, and to avoid the possibility of revealing the identities of individual staff, the FCO, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, does not disclose more detailed information when overall numbers amount to fewer than five.

Egypt

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official visits Ministers from his Department have made to Egypt since 1997; and for what purpose. [43981]

Alistair Burt: Previous visits to Egypt by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers since 1997 include:

Lord Green, February 2011 as part of the recent delegation led by the Prime Minister

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Hague), November 2010

The Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis), January 2010

Bill Rammell (former Member for Harlow), May 2009

Lord Malloch-Brown, November 2007, 30 June-1 July 2008 and November 2008

The right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband), November 2007

Ministers take part in regular meetings and overseas visits to discuss a range of matters with interlocutors.

Iran: Warships

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the passage of Iranian warships through the Suez Canal; whether he has had discussions with his *(a)* Egyptian and *(b)* Israeli counterpart on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [43819]

Alistair Burt: I am aware of the recent passage of Iranian navy vessels through the Suez Canal. Iran was trying to provoke a reaction through a symbolic but superficial act. But it knows, and others in the region recognise, that there are real limits to its power and influence. We continue to discuss Iran with a wide range of international partners including Israel and Egypt.

Libya

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the quality of intelligence assessments by his Department relating to Libya. [43908]

Alistair Burt: The policy of successive governments has been not to comment on matters relating to intelligence or national security.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department first discussed with the Ministry of Defence the provision of assistance for the evacuation of UK citizens from Libya. [43701]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works closely with the Ministry of Defence on consular contingency planning. The two Departments have been in close and regular contact since the beginning of the crisis in Libya, including on the role of the Ministry of Defence in the provision of assistance for the evacuation of UK citizens from Libya.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he first received information that commercial carriers were cancelling flights to and from Libya as a result of the recent unrest in that country. [43702]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* On 20 February, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London contacted British Airways, which confirmed that they had no plans to suspend their scheduled services to Tripoli. Both sides agreed to stay in close contact, particularly should that change. In the evening of 21 February British Airways informed the FCO that they were now cancelling their flights to and from Libya, on safety and security grounds. BMI took the decision to suspend their scheduled service on the morning of 22 February, also on safety and security grounds, and promptly informed us, though at the time it was a decision taken a day at a time. Our embassy in Tripoli had also been in regular contact with both airlines on the ground. Tripoli airport remained open and operating with scheduled flights continuing on 22 February by a range of other airlines.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aircraft have been used for each evacuation of British nationals from abroad in 2011. [43703]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* Since Monday 21 February the British Government have arranged 17 flights to help British Nationals leave Libya. Nine flights were organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including three to provide onward travel to the UK, and one that had initially been chartered by BP. Eight were operated by the Ministry of Defence. A range of civil and military aircraft were used, including BAe 146s, Boeing 737s and C130s. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office assisted British nationals who wanted to leave Libya by facilitating commercial flights and arranging seats for British nationals on flights organised by other countries. Previously in 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had also chartered two flights to take British nationals out of Cairo, supplementing commercially available options.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British nationals have been evacuated from Libya on RAF aircraft to date. [43886]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, on Libya: Consular Response in which I updated the House on the efforts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made to help British nationals depart Libya.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms of reference are for his Department's review of aircraft evacuation procedures; how it will report; and by what date he expects it to report. [44402]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Prime Minister and I have both told the House that there are lessons we will wish to learn from this evacuation. I have therefore commissioned a review, with the aim of examining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s arrangements for leading the evacuation of British nationals in a crisis. The review will consider the contingency arrangements that the FCO in London and all Posts have in place, and the triggers and procedures for moving to a crisis footing and mounting civilian and military evacuation operations.

The review will consult widely across Government, with the airline industry, major multinationals with British staff in high risk locations, private security companies, the Association of British Travel Agencies and other key travel industry figures, the Red Cross and other emergency management organisations, and our international partners.

The review will be completed and presented to FCO Ministers as soon as practically possible.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date and at what time his Department first placed the order for the charter aircraft to evacuate British nationals from Libya which was subsequently delayed at Gatwick Airport. [44403]

Mr Hague: *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was in discussions with brokers throughout 21 February about charter options. I took the decision to authorise FCO charters at 10 pm that evening. The FCO then placed the order with the brokers and, following intense discussions, flight options were confirmed with them at 11.52 pm the same evening. The aircraft operator and FCO staff on the ground advised that landing permissions were taking up to 48 hours to process. This first charter flight was therefore arranged to depart from Gatwick airport at 9 am on 23 February. Despite strenuous efforts by the operator and by embassy staff on the ground, and like a number of other countries, we were unable to secure landing permission on 22 February. By mid-morning on 23 February, a few countries had taken the risk of flying to Tripoli without prior landing permission, seeking landing permission from the control tower instead. No sanctions had been taken against them. We therefore informed the operator and requested them to fly in on this basis. The operator agreed. However, at this point it became apparent that the charter plane had developed a technical fault, preventing it from taking off. This fault was repaired as quickly as possible and the plane departed London Gatwick on the evening of 23 February.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK nationals evacuated from Tripoli on flights organised by other governments since 15 February 2011. [44409]

Alistair Burt: Our records show that other Governments, including those of other EU member states, have helped over 150 British nationals to leave Libya.

Libya: Foreign Nationals

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-UK nationals have been evacuated from Tripoli on flights arranged by his Department since 15 February 2011. [44408]

Alistair Burt: Approximately 180 non-UK nationals have been evacuated from Tripoli on Foreign and Commonwealth Office chartered flights.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when he plans to reply to the letter of 1 February 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent whose daughter is in Pakistan; [44852]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the hon. Member for Walsall North receives a reply to his letter of 1 February 2011 regarding a constituent whose daughter is in Pakistan, UKBA CTS reference: M2320/11. [44853]

Mr Lidington: The Minister for South Asia, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), replied to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter on 28 February 2011.

New Zealand: Earthquakes

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance has been provided to New Zealand following the recent earthquake in Christchurch. [44956]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Officials from our high commission in Wellington, led by our high commissioner, were quickly deployed to Christchurch to liaise with the New Zealand authorities and provide consular assistance to British nationals. In response to a request from the New Zealand Government, we immediately sent a self-sufficient search and rescue team of 63 experts drawn from the British emergency fire and rescue services.

In addition, the New Zealand Government have accepted our offer of support in the process of Disaster Victim Identification. A 10-man team, specially tailored to support the New Zealand authorities, is in Christchurch and providing essential support and expertise in helping to identify any potential British victims and bolster the New Zealand authorities in their wider identification process.

North Africa: British Nationals Abroad

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals were evacuated from *(a)* Tunisia, *(b)* Egypt and *(c)* Libya by other EU member states during the recent political events in those countries; and if he will make a statement. [44174]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 4 March 2011]*: We co-operate closely with a range of international partners on consular crisis response. Our records show that other governments, including those of other EU member states, have helped over 150 British nationals to leave Libya. It is likely that additional British nationals were evacuated by their employers or our international partners without formal notification to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. British nationals left Egypt through a variety of different means, including flights organised by other nations.

North Africa: EU Nationals

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-British European citizens have been evacuated from *(a)* Tunisia, *(b)* Egypt and *(c)* Libya using his Department's resources during the recent events in those countries; and if he will make a statement. [44175]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 4 March 2011]*: Our officials and armed forces have helped over 1,800 foreign nationals to leave Libya and Egypt. We did not mount an official evacuation from Tunisia. In the case of Egypt, the two charters organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) from Cairo also brought out a number of EU citizens. In the case of Libya, nearly 30 EU citizens were among those evacuated on the FCO chartered flights from Tripoli and approximately 200 further EU citizens were evacuated by UK military transport.

North Korea: South Korea

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in conjunction with his international counterparts to deal with the security situation between North Korea and South Korea. [44473]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We regularly discuss the situation with both North and South Korea. The Prime Minister has been in close touch with President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea, and spoke to him following the attacks last year. In addition, senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly meet North Korean counterparts to relay our message that North Korea faces increasing isolation unless it changes course. We actively support a process which involves building trust and confidence between North and South Korea. We are monitoring the situation closely, and stand ready to help advance talks.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make urgent representations to the government of Pakistan on the killing of the Minister responsible for religious minorities in that country and treatment of those who oppose blasphemy laws in that country. [44472]

Alistair Burt: The assassination of Shahbaz Bhatti was an appalling and cowardly act, striking at the heart of democracy and freedom of expression in Pakistan. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend Baroness Warsi and I have made public statements condemning his murder, and the Prime Minister has written to President Zardari to express his condolences and his support for the Government of Pakistan's effort to strengthen democracy. We continue to make clear the need to ensure that the blasphemy laws are not misused including against minorities. We continue to support the case for reform of those laws.

Sudan: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the risk to UK nationals in the Abyei region of Sudan. [44294]

Mr Bellingham: The increase in violence in Abyei over the last few days is very concerning. Our assessment of the security situation in Abyei had already led us to advise against all but essential travel to Abyei. There are currently very few UK nationals in Abyei and we ask all UK nationals visiting Sudan to register with our embassy via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Tunisia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* purposes were of each visit to Tunisia by Ministers in his Department since 1997. [43929]

Alistair Burt: I visited Tunisia between 28 and 30 November 2010.

Previous visits by Foreign and Commonwealth Ministers since 1997 include:

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, February 2011

Bill Rammell (former Member for Harlow), February 2009

The right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband), February 2008

The right hon. Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, January 2005 and September 2003

The right hon. Member for Neath (Mr Hain), April 2000

Derek Fatchett (former Member for Leeds Central), May 1998.

The purpose of my visit was to support UK objectives in a range of areas including the safety of British nationals travelling to Tunisia, trade, counter-terrorism, regional stability and political reform.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for permanent residence certificates the Turks and Caicos Islands Government has received in each of the last five years. [43890]

Mr Bellingham: The Immigration Department of the Turks and Caicos Islands is not able to provide accurate statistics for the number of applications for permanent residence certificates received over the past five years.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is currently carrying out extensive reforms within the Immigration Department. This includes the work of registering and responding to applications received in the last five years, including those which were not dealt with under the previous administration.

I understand that approximately 2,000 applications for permanent residence certificates were received between 2006 and 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he expects the embargo on new permanent residency applications in the Turks and Caicos Islands to be lifted. [43976]

Mr Bellingham: The Turks and Caicos Islands Government are currently carrying out extensive reforms within the Immigration Department. This includes the work of registering and responding to applications received in the last five years, including those which were not dealt with under the previous Administration.

The Government understand that the Turks and Caicos Islands Government will shortly announce a timetable for lifting the moratorium and accepting new applications.

Yemen: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the safety of British nationals resident in Yemen. [43830]

Alistair Burt: I have spoken regularly with ministerial colleagues in the Department for International Development (DfID), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Home Office on developing events in Yemen. We are watching events closely and urge an immediate halt to the violence.

In consultation with DfID, MOD and Home Office, we will continue to work closely together to ensure the safety of British nationals in Yemen. We urge all British nationals in Yemen to ensure they maintain regular contact with our embassy in Sana'a.

Yemen: Foreign Policy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [44337]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 4 March 2011]*: The Government, along with the international community, assess that the Government of Yemen needs to take urgent action to tackle its economic, security and political challenges. The Government support a comprehensive approach to helping Yemen overcome these challenges.

Bilaterally, the Government are committed to a united, prosperous and stable Yemen. We are one of the largest bilateral donors to Yemen. Our aid programme aims to address the most immediate causes of poverty, conflict and instability, and to create a more favourable environment for sustained development, through projects which focus on support for basic service delivery, more accountable and responsive state institutions, and economic opportunity.

Multilaterally, the UK takes a leading role in the Friends of Yemen, a group which co-ordinates the efforts of the international community to assist the Government of Yemen. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 22-23 March in Riyadh. The meeting should assess progress against agreed objectives from the last meeting in September 2010 and to discuss certain key themes:

Political inclusion through the process of the National Dialogue with a view to the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections;

Clearly identified development objectives set out in a Development Plan for Poverty Reduction and supported by an appropriate funding mechanism;

Action to address threats to internal security and resolve underlying political grievances.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments: Stockton on Tees

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the weather station area covering Stockton North constituency qualified for cold weather payment on the most recent date for which figures are available. [43519]

Steve Webb: The available information is given in the table.

Estimated number of benefit units that received at least one cold weather payment for weather stations linked to postcode districts in Stockton North constituency

Weather station	*2010-11*
Albemarle	148,600
Linton on Ouse	85,600
Loftus	56,100

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available. Estimates for 2010-11 may be revised after the end of the cold weather payment season, but will still be estimates not actuals.
2. A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)
3. Each of the weather stations is linked both to an area within Stockton North constituency and also to an area outside Stockton North constituency. Estimated numbers given are for the weather station as a whole, not for the part of Stockton North constituency linked to the weather station.
4. If there is a further trigger for any of the weather stations this winter, that will not change the estimates of the number of benefit units that received at least one cold weather payment in 2010-11.
5. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
6. Some benefit units received more than one payment in a year.
7. Estimated numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Sources:

Postcode districts in the Stockton North constituency: analysis of National Statistics Postcode Directory.

Postcode district to weather station links: Department for Work and Pensions records.

Records of triggers and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station: Department for Work and Pensions records.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43309]

Chris Grayling: The Department has a private finance initiative contract with Telereal Trillium for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation. This includes the provision of catering, which is delivered by Eurest, a subcontractor to Telereal Trillium.

The majority of food sourced by the Department already meets the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. The commitment has not been met in the sourcing of pork which, while meeting EU standards, does not meet British or equivalent standards as it attracts a price premium. The Government's commitment are subject to there being no overall increase in costs.

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* managers of residential care homes on removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for those in local authority-funded residential care homes; and if he will make a statement. [43133]

Maria Miller: In recent months, Ministers in the Department have met disabled people who are care home residents, their families and care home staff, as well as local authorities, disability organisations and other groups to discuss reform of disability living allowance, including reform of the mobility component.

In addition, disabled people and their representatives have had an opportunity to put forward their views in a DLA reform consultation document, which received over 5,000 responses from individuals and 500 responses from organisations.

We have taken account of the many representations we have had from disability organisations and other groups and are now reviewing mobility provision in care homes as part of our wider reform of DLA.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to respond to his Department's consultation on the disability living allowance. [43150]

Maria Miller: The consultation on the reform of disability living allowance closed on 18 February. We received over 5,000 responses from individuals and over 500 from organisations. The Government plan to publish their response in the spring.

Disability: Mortgages

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an equality impact assessment was undertaken in respect of proposals to reduce the support for mortgage interest rate for people participating in the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme. [43788]

Maria Miller: The change in the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest applies to all customers who receive that help as part of their benefit.

The Department has published an equality impact assessment on the change, and this has included an assessment of the impact on disabled customers, including those participating in the home ownership for people with long-term disabilities scheme.

The document was published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

Employment and Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason medical evidence is not sought from the GP of a claimant of employment and support allowance as part of the work capability assessment. [43524]

Maria Miller: Initial claims to employment and support allowance must be supported by appropriate evidence, which is usually in the form of a fit note provided by the claimant's GP. In addition to this, processes are in place to ensure that further medical evidence may be requested from GPs when it is likely to help provide advice on benefit entitlement. Any evidence provided by a customer's GP or consultant is very important and will be fully considered.

Employment: Young People

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he plans to take to increase youth employment; [43813]

(2) if his Department will bring forward proposals for a successor scheme to replace the Youth Guarantee from April 2011. [43815]

Chris Grayling: The Government do not intend to introduce a successor scheme to replace the Young Person's Guarantee, but are determined to deal with the legacy of youth unemployment.

From summer 2011 the Work Programme will offer a flexible, personalised programme built around the needs of individuals, including young people. Jobseekers aged 18 to 24 will access the Work Programme after nine months of unemployment. Those young people with the most serious barriers to employment will access the programme from three months into their claim.

In addition to this, from April Jobcentre Plus advisers will have more discretion to work with young people to help them make the move into employment, and will be given greater freedom to determine what support will be provided to meet both customer and labour market need. This might include, for example, work experience, volunteering, an apprenticeship, a further education course or other training.

Funeral Payments

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review his Department's public literature on funeral payments to ensure that the information it contains is accurate and concise, but also comprehensive and readily understood. [42421]

Steve Webb: The Department's public literature is reviewed regularly to ensure that it meets the required standard for both usability and comprehension.

Officials have recently reviewed the Department's literature on funeral payments for policy clarity and some minor amendments have been made to the funeral payment claim form SF200 which will be implemented in April 2011. The Department's leaflets will also be reviewed by September 2011.

Incapacity Benefit

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost of assessing and reassessing claimants' incapacity benefits through the work capability assessment in the latest period for which figures are available. [44719]

Chris Grayling: A full appraisal of the expected costs and benefits of the reassessment of incapacity benefit claims was made in 2010 and is detailed in the "Impact Assessment of Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) Regulations 2010".

Page 9 onwards of this document detailed the expected costs and benefits. All costs and benefits are presented as Net Present Values in 2009-10 prices, and include costs and benefits occurring between 2009-10 and 2013-14. The economic impact of the policy (Net Present Value) is £1,000 million (excluding one-off costs). Positive number represents benefits. This impact assessment covers just the impact of migration cases and not all ESA cases going forward.

Jobcentre Plus

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each region were referred for job training by Jobcentre Plus to a training provider in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion this represented of the number of those on jobseeker's allowance in each region. [39859]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Number of referrals to contracted employment provision from April 2009 to March 2010 by region and the number of individuals who had an active claim for jobseeker's allowance at any point between April 2009 and March 2010

Region	*Referrals*	*Starts*	** JSA active claims*	*Referrals v Individuals (%)*	*Starts v Individuals (%)*
East Midlands	83,634	51,880	260,691	32	20
East of England	70,410	29,744	291,920	24	10
London	165,506	100,564	500,136	33	20
North East	86,313	52,657	190,409	45	28
North West	149,098	89,064	454,992	33	20
Office for Scotland	62,353	43,088	323,458	19	13
Office for Wales	54,602	35,852	184,334	30	19
South East	74,414	42,601	391,783	19	11
South West	81,336	41,640	246,582	33	17
West Midlands	119,448	70,998	382,528	31	19
Yorkshire and Humberside	109,951	60,384	350,282	31	17
	1,057,065	618,472	3,577,115	30	17

Jobcentre Plus: Glasgow

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely change in the level of provision of Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the United Kingdom in each of the next four financial years; [43716]

(2) whether he has set an objective for the level of efficiency savings to be achieved by the Jobcentre Plus network in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in each of the next four financial years. [43689]

Chris Grayling: As the administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what assessment has been made of the likely change in the level of provision of Jobcentre Plus in (a) Glasgow, (b) Scotland and (c) the United Kingdom in each of the next four financial years; and whether an objective has been set for the level of efficiency savings to be achieved by the Jobcentre Plus network in (a) Glasgow, (b) Scotland and (c) the UK in each of the next four financial years.

This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

By way of clarification, Jobcentre Plus does not provide services in Northern Ireland, therefore data is not available for the whole of the UK, but for Great Britain (GB) only. For this answer, GB is defined as England, Scotland and Wales.

Our financial plans for the next four years are at an early stage and are still being refined. Whilst we can provide information about the position at the GB level for Jobcentre Plus, we have not yet set efficiency targets below this level (i.e. for Scotland or Glasgow) for 2011/12.

The Spending Review, 2010 announced that DWP would deliver 26% savings in real terms from its core budget over the four year period to 2015. Jobcentre Plus will contribute to achieving this level of savings.

In 2011/12, we will do this by working more efficiently. For example, we will make much more use of our online services (e.g. Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) online). We are implementing ideas from our staff to make improvements in our processes and help improve productivity. We will also make savings in our back office and support functions. In our jobcentres, we will enable our personal advisers to work more flexibly to provide personalised support to customers and we will work more closely with external providers under the new Work Programme.

To help achieve the level of efficiencies required, we will be reviewing our Jobcentre network as part of an overall service delivery plan. We will look at which locations we will deliver services from and how best to do so, working with other local services such as councils, credit unions, and training providers to join up our services better and share premises where possible. In some cities, we have a number of jobcentres close to each other and it is sensible to look at opportunities to reduce our costs here. We are also reviewing our network of Contact Centres and Benefit Centres

Once we have developed our plans, including Equality Impact Assessments, we will share these with local stakeholders, including MPs, as part of our normal consultation arrangements for service delivery, before any decision is taken.

Jobcentre Plus expects its jobcentre network to remain one of the largest in government, with services still delivered in many small and rural towns as well as major cities.

Jobseeker's Allowance and Travel Concessions

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information he holds on schemes which allow those on jobseeker's allowance to access discounted bus, train or tram fares; [43016]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals for a national scheme to enable those on jobseeker's allowance to receive discounted public transport fares. [43017]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Airdrie

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of Airdrie and Shotts constituency is in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [44841]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of the working age population of Airdrie and Shotts constituency are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. (044841)

Since August 2010 labour market statistics are no longer based on a working age definition. These statistics are now based on people aged 16-64 years.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

For January 2011 the number of people aged 16-64 years resident in Airdrie and Shotts constituency claiming JSA is 3,311 and the proportion is 6.0 per cent.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Jobseeker's Allowance: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 16 to 24-year-olds in Coventry claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [43814]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 16-24 years in Coventry local authority area: January 2008 to January 2011

	Number
2008	
January	1,890
February	1,990
March	2,105
April	2,080
May	2,125
June	2,110
July	2,220
August	2,270
September	2,245
October	2,120
November	2,250
December	2,470
2009	
January	2,705
February	3,055
March	3,185
April	3,270
May	3,320
June	3,255
July	3,350
August	3,360
September	3,530
October	3,465
November	3,270
December	3,285
2010	
January	3,410
February	3,470
March	3,320
April	3,125
May	3,025
June	2,890
July	2,815
August	2,860
September	2,860
October	2,805
November	2,695
December	2,700
2011	
January	2,835

Notes:
1. Caseload data are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
Count of unemployment related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Maternity Payments

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many families in the Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget areas covering Livingston constituency received the Sure Start maternity grant in 2009-10; and what the total monetary value was of such grants; [44710]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of low income families having a second or subsequent baby in the Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget areas covering Livingston constituency who will not be eligible for the Sure Start maternity grant from 1 April 2011. [44711]

Steve Webb: The Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area covering Livingston constituency is Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre. In 2009-10, the number of Sure Start maternity grant awards made in Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre was 13,200 with a total monetary value of £6.7 million.

The number of awards made for a second or subsequent maternity in 2009-10 in Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre is estimated to be 52% of all awards, namely 6,900.

Notes:

1. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, the number of awards does not include awards processed clerically which had not been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System by the end of 2009-10.

2. The average award size is greater than £500 (the award for one baby) because of multiple births.

3. Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

4. The changes will take place from 11 April.

Sources:

1. Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System (for total number of awards in Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre and monetary values).

2. The estimate of 52% was obtained by analysing families in Great Britain with a child (or children) aged under one from the Department for Work and Pensions Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance Quarterly Statistical Enquiries for August 2009. (This was considered the most appropriate available data at the time the analysis was done.)

Older People: Concessions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged 65 years received (i) free bus travel, (ii) free prescriptions and (iii) winter fuel payments in the latest period for which figures are available. [44855]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. Such information as is available is as follows:

(i) The Department for Transport does not maintain figures regarding the number of older people receiving free bus travel. However, the National Travel Survey 2009 estimates that 76% of eligible people (older and disabled) take up the bus pass. According to the Office for National Statistics at the mid-point of 2009, there were 4.7 million women and 3.7 million men aged 65 and over living in England and this indicates that 8.4 million people aged 65 and over living in England are eligible to free off-peak bus travel.

(ii) The Department of Health does not collect the information requested on prescription charge exemptions.

(iii) In winter 2009-10, the latest year for which information is available, 308,290 women and 307,170 men aged 65 years received a winter fuel payment (figures are rounded to the nearest 10).

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average monetary value of *(a)* free bus travel, *(b)* free prescriptions and *(c)* winter fuel payments to a (i) woman and (ii) man aged 65 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [44856]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. Such information as is available is as follows:

(a) There is around £1 billion a year spent on concessionary travel. The monetary value to each person issued a concessionary travel bus pass could be estimated to be, on average, approximately £100 per annum.

(b) The Department of Health does not collect the information requested on prescription charge exemptions.

(c) For winter 2010-11 most women and men aged 65 years will receive a winter fuel payment of up to £250 depending on their household circumstances. Some eligible people who live with another qualifying individual will receive the winter fuel payment at the shared rate of £125. This includes the temporary increase of £50 for winter 2010-11.

Pension Service: Post Offices

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on piloting a document verification service for the Pension Service. [41100]

Steve Webb: As set out in the Government policy statement "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", published on 9 November 2010, the Pensions Disability and Carers Service have been working closely with the post office on plans to pilot a new document verification service for pensions customers. Plans are advancing and I expect the initial pilot to be up and running in the spring.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners have been lifted out of poverty in *(a)* Coventry South constituency and *(b)* the UK since 1997. [43293]

Steve Webb: The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs. Estimates of the number of pensioners who have been lifted out of poverty are not available, as each year different households are surveyed to produce low income statistics that are published in the Households Below Average Income series. However, information is available about the net change in the number of pensioners with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income.

(a) Pensioners in Coventry South constituency

The Households Below Average Income figures only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information is available for the west midlands Government office region, but not available for the Coventry South constituency. Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000 and percentages to the nearest whole percentage point.

In the three-year period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 there were around 300,000 pensioners in the west midlands with incomes below the 60% contemporary median (equivalent to 28% of pensioners in the region). The latest information relates to the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 in which there were around 200,000 pensioners in poverty (16%).

Between the periods 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2006-07 to 2008-09, there has been a reduction of around 100,000 pensioners in the west midlands Government office region with incomes below 60% of the contemporary median income. This equates to a 12 percentage point reduction in pensioner poverty.

(b) Pensioners in the UK

At a national level, we do not need to use the three-year averages and can use the individual yearly figures. However, figures for 1997-98 cover Great Britain only, as Northern Ireland data did not become available until the following year.

In 1998-99 there were around 2.9 million pensioners in poverty in the UK, which equates to around 29% of all pensioners. The 2008-09 UK figures show that around 1.8 million pensioners were in poverty, equating to 16%.

Between 1998-99 and 2008-09 the number of pensioners in the UK with incomes below 60% of the contemporary median income reduced by 1.1 million.

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of pensioners living in poverty in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [44107]

Steve Webb: The most commonly used measure of poverty relates to those with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs.

Estimates of poverty, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government Office Region level. Therefore, information is available for the South East of England Government Office Region, but not available for the constituency of Dartford.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility. Numbers of pensioners are quoted to the nearest 100,000 and percentages are quoted to the nearest whole percentage point.

The following table shows the number and percentage of pensioners living in households in the South East of England with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs, for time periods that cover the last five years.

Three year period	*Number of pensioners (million)*	*Percentage of pensioners*
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	16
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.2	16
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	16

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.

4. Numbers of people in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

5. Disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

6. The household level poverty threshold is defined as the 60% of median equivalised disposable household income.

Pensions

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he has made on proposals for a single flat-rate pension. [43202]

Steve Webb: The Government are currently looking at options for simplifying the state pension system—no decisions have yet been made.

Post Office Card Account

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Coalition agreement, page 13, what steps he has taken to implement the proposal to ensure that direct debit discounts are available to Post Office Card Account holders. [41099]

Steve Webb: We are awaiting the outcome of new research exploring the options for all consumers to have the opportunity to benefit from direct debit discounts.

Officials from all interested Departments are working closely to steer the direction of the research, which will explore the possibilities for a commercially viable business model for a new account, which would be designed to meet the needs of low-income consumers by supporting positive financial management, smoothing expenditure and enabling access to better value services and products.

Remploy

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with trade unions representing Remploy employees on the future of the company. [43182]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 389W.

Remploy: Voluntary Redundancy

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of Remploy took voluntary redundancy in the last 10 years. [43183]

Maria Miller: The number of people who have taken voluntary redundancy in the last 10 full financial years is contained in the following table:

	Number
2000-01	211
2001-02	14
2002-03	33
2003-04	11
2004-05	7
2005-06	4
2006-07	3
2007-08	1,346
2008-09	452
2009-10	1

Source:
Remploy.

Social Fund

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department has allocated to social fund *(a)* budgeting loans, *(b)* crisis loans and *(c)* communicare grants for each of the next three years. [43504]

Steve Webb: HM Treasury allocates funding for the social fund. The budget for the discretionary social fund is allocated annually and the details for 2011-12 will be announced in a written ministerial statement shortly.

Social Security Benefits

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) 60, (ii) 61, (iii) 62, (iv) 63, (v) 64 and (vi) 65 years are in receipt of (A) guarantee credit, (B) housing benefit and (C) council tax benefit. [44272]

Steve Webb: In response to part (A), the gender and age caseloads of pension credit (guarantee credit) are as follows:

Table 1: Claimants of pension credit (guarantee credit) aged 60-65 in GB—May 2010

			Number of claimants
	All	*Males*	*Females*
All aged 60-65	499,280	274,410	224,870
60	64,950	34,780	30,170
61	82,970	46,160	36,810
62	92,500	52,420	40,080
63	102,020	58,210	43,820
64	85,140	48,520	36,620
65	71,700	34,320	37,380

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten; figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Figures include those in receipt of savings credit alongside guarantee credit.
3. Figures are for claimants only and exclude partners of recipients.
4. Populations of benefit units (households) by age are not available, and so proportions cannot be provided.
5. The age condition for eligibility for pension credit has increased alongside state pension age for females since April 2010 as part of the Equalisation of Pension Age.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

In response to parts (B) and (C), the gender and age caseloads of housing benefit and council tax benefit are as follows:

Table 2: Single claimants of housing benefit in GB—November 2010

	Female (single)	*Male (single)*
All	2,436,560	1,369,060
60	24,350	22,370
61	25,840	23,130
62	27,240	24,290
63	29,880	26,380
64	27,300	23,490
65	24,700	20,320

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Table 3: Couple claimants of housing benefit in GB—November 2010

	Number
All	982,720
60-64	80,210

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Table 4: Single claimants of council tax benefit in GB—November 2010

	Female (single)	*Male (single)*
All	2,925,090	1,414,750
60	30,690	24,590
61	33,670	26,300
62	36,380	28,230
63	41,000	31,740
64	38,340	28,620
65	35,730	24,210

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Table 5: Couple claimants of council tax benefit in GB—November 2010

	Number
All	1,442,060
60-64	146,910

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Proportions are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month). Age breakdowns are given for single recipients by single year of age. Age bands for couples are based on the age of the oldest person. Single year of age is not readily available.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008, and November 2010 is the most recent available.
6. Housing benefit and council tax benefit are both household benefits. Populations of households by age are not available, and therefore proportions cannot be calculated.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of suspected fraud were reported to the National Benefit Fraud hotline in 2009-10; how many such cases *(a)* were referred to the Fraud Investigation Service and *(b)* resulted in a (i) prosecution and (ii) conviction with a custodial sentence. [44443]

Chris Grayling: Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is examined by the Department. Where there is enough evidence to indicate potential benefit fraud the case is passed to either the Fraud Investigation Service for further investigation or to our customer compliance teams in Jobcentre Plus who will scrutinise the relevant benefit claim and make adjustments to entitlements as necessary.

In 2009-10, 253,708 cases of suspected benefit fraud were reported to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline, of which 46,258 were referred to the Fraud Investigation Service for further action.

Information on the number of these reported fraud cases referred from the National Benefit Fraud Hotline that were prosecuted and convicted with a custodial sentence is not available. However, in 2009-10, 8,198 cases were prosecuted for fraud against DWP benefits, of which 7,040 received a criminal conviction. A total of 1,340 of these convictions resulted in a custodial sentence of which 929 were suspended.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average fee paid to Atos for carrying out a work capability assessment was in the latest period for which figures are available. [43523]

Chris Grayling: Information relating to the average fee paid to Atos Healthcare for carrying out a work capability assessment is commercially sensitive and release of this information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to announce the award of the contract for processing green giro payments. [41101]

Steve Webb: The Minister for Employment, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State (Chris Grayling) announced the outcome in a written ministerial statement on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 43WS.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of proposals to increase the state pension age on the average monetary value of *(a)* free prescriptions, *(b)* free bus travel and *(c)* winter fuel payments for a (i) woman and (ii) man currently aged 56 years over their lifetime. [44865]

Steve Webb: Under proposals current before Parliament, men and women aged 56 in 2011 will reach state pension age in 2021 rather than in 2020 as under current legislation. The age at which pensioner benefits can be received is already set to increase in line with the female state pension age. The information requested is not available. Such information as is available is as follows:

(a) The Department of Health does not collect the information requested on prescription charge exemptions.

(b) The Department for Transport does not hold information on the monetary value of free bus travel to eligible people over their lifetime. The changes in state pension age impact on the cost of providing the England-wide off-peak bus travel concession and the overall monetary effect is set out on page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum to The Travel Concessions (Eligibility) England Order 2010 No. 459 which can be found at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/459/pdfs/uksiem_20100459_en.pdf

(c) The annual winter fuel payment estimated to be paid in winter 2020-21 to a man or woman, aged 56 in 2011 under the current legislation is £200. Where more than one qualifying person lives in the household, a shared rate of £100 would be payable.

State Retirement Pensions: Age

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* public awareness campaigns and *(b)* consultation his Department has undertaken for individuals affected by his plans to bring forward the increase in the pension age for women. [44245]

Steve Webb: The information requested is as follows:

(a) We have placed information on Direct Gov and DWP websites. We plan to write to men and women born between 6 April 1953 and 5 April 1954 and men born between 6 December 1953 and 5 April 1954 who are affected by the proposed changes to bring forward the State Pension age to 66. Officials are considering how best to communicate with people born on or after 6 April 1954 so that they can plan for their retirement and are investigating a number of options. We will balance the need to communicate effectively with the need to ensure value for money to the taxpayer.

(b) We announced the proposal to review the increase in State Pension age in the Budget and we gave a written ministerial statement to Parliament on 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS. A call for evidence was published and received substantial national and regional press coverage. We received 352 responses from individuals and 46 from organisations.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department made of the required implementation period for changes to the retirement age to allow individuals sufficient time to adjust their financial arrangements. [44246]

Steve Webb: The notice period given to individuals affected by bringing forward the increase of state pension to 66 has to be balanced against the need to ensure that the state pensions system is sustainable and fair to each generation. In order to address the rapid increases in life expectancy, it will not be possible to give a notice period similar to those given for previous increases in state pension age.

The increase to 66 will be phased in so that people whose state pension age increases most will have a longer notice period.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the experience of other countries who have increased their pension age. [44247]

Steve Webb: Information on other countries which already have a State Pension age of 66, or will have done so before the UK's current legislated timetable, is in the Government's White Paper 'A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66'.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of limiting increases in women's state pension ages to a maximum of 12 months in addition to the timetable set by the Pensions Act 2005 in each financial year to 2015-16. [42066]

Steve Webb: Women's state pension age is already increasing from 60 to 65 by 2020 under the Pensions Act 1995. Under the Pensions Act 2007, the state pension age for both men and women is due to increase to 66 between 2024 and 2026, followed by two further increases at 10-year intervals.

As the proposed changes to women's state pension age contained in the Pensions Bill do not start to take effect until April 2016, there can be no additional cost to the public purse in each financial year to 2015-16.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of retaining the existing state pension age for women to determine the age of eligibility for pension credit in each financial year to 2015-16. [42067]

Steve Webb: The qualifying age for pension credit is already increasing from 60 to 65 by 2020 along with the existing women's state pension age under the Pensions Act 1995. It is currently around 60 and three months.

The cost of retaining the current women's state pension age (around 60 and three months) as the qualifying age for pension credit is in the table:

Increase in spend on pension credit

	£ million (2010-11 prices)
2011-12	69.1
2012-13	212.7
2013-14	359.7
2014-15	506.0
2015-16	649.5
Total	1,797.0

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43248]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Volunteering

The Department is very proud of its commitment to volunteering. Staff are consistently encouraged to engage in their community. The Department has been running its volunteering scheme—Community 5,000—for around four years. It has recently doubled its commitment by encouraging staff to sign up to 10,000 volunteering days a year. The Department's senior management are leading the way actively taking part and encouraging others to join in.

For many years, the Department has also granted a set amount of paid leave for staff to serve as magistrates and school governors. Many staff take up this opportunity.

Donations via payroll giving

DWP operates a flexible payroll giving scheme which provides the opportunity for all employees to give regularly on a tax-free basis to charities and good causes of their choice.

Employees can give money on a regular basis to a charity, or charities by tax-free deductions from their pay. The donations are made from gross pay. Employees may contribute to a maximum of four registered charities (or other organisations registered as charitable by HM Revenue and Customs). They have the option to make monthly donations or a one-off deduction. The minimum donation for both is £12.00 per annum and there is no maximum limit.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime Levels

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in the levels of crime recorded by the British Crime Survey since 1997. [44041]

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in the levels of crime recorded by the British Crime Survey since 1997. [44053]

Nick Herbert: The two main measures of crime—the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime—provide either a partial or confusing picture of trends in crime since 1997. That is why I have asked the National Statistician to lead an independent review of how they are produced and we await her report later in the year.

This Government believe that it is crucial for the public to have the information they need to hold local services to account. The new police.uk website gives communities access to monthly street level crime and antisocial behaviour data, in line with our commitment to greater transparency across public services.

Antisocial Behaviour

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the outcome of the Government's review of antisocial behaviour powers. [44044]

James Brokenshire: We published a consultation document which outlined the findings of the review of antisocial behaviour powers on 7 February 2011.

Our review of the current tools and powers found that they are bureaucratic and do not work effectively. For example, the most recent statistics on ASBOs showed that 56% have been breached, many more than once.

Police Services

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of the term front line her Department uses in relation to police services. [44046]

Nick Herbert: Frontline officers and staff are generally those directly involved in the public crime fighting face of the force. This includes neighbourhood policing, response policing and less visible functions such as criminal investigation.

Police Numbers: Crime Levels

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has commissioned and evaluated on any relationship between numbers of police officers and levels of crime. [44056]

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has commissioned and evaluated on any relationship between numbers of police officers and levels of crime. [44062]

Nick Herbert: The Government believe that police forces can make savings while protecting the frontline. We do not accept that reducing costs will cause an increase in crime. What matters is how resources are used and how officers are deployed.

Asylum Seekers: Glasgow

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of attempted suicide by asylum seekers in Glasgow were reported to her Department in the last 12 months. [44063]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency received four reports of attempted suicide by asylum seekers in Glasgow over the last 12 months.

The UK Border Agency takes very seriously the need to respect and provide for the mental health needs of vulnerable individuals seeking asylum in the UK. Throughout their asylum application, all individuals receive the same free access to NHS services and additional support that is available to the general public.

Injuries

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* physical assaults, *(b)* verbal assaults, *(c)* injuries and *(d)* serious injuries have been reported by (i) Metropolitan police force officers, (ii) Nottinghamshire police force officers and (iii) all police officers in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [43721]

Nick Herbert: Information on verbal assaults is not available centrally. The offence classification of 'Assault on a constable' was added to the Police Recorded Crime series from 1 April 1998, however the type of assault cannot be separately identified as the data collected are on an aggregate basis and do not cover assaults with injury.

Separate data on the numbers of police officers on duty who were assaulted and resulting injury for Metropolitan police, Nottinghamshire, and the total for the 43 police forces in England and Wales from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and 2008-09 to 2009-10 are provided in tables A and B respectively. Police officer assault numbers for 2004-05 and previous periods were published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and can be seen in the HMIC annual report, available in the Library of the House.

Table A: Assaults[1] on police officers on duty, 2005-06 to 2007-08

	2005-06			*2006-07*			*2007-08*		
Police force area	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*
Metropolitan police	0	228	2,168	0	237	2,060	0	210	1,912
Nottinghamshire	0	2	221	0	3	221	0	1	168
England and Wales total[2,3]	3	423	11,592	0	506	10,993	1	502	10,890

[1] Provisional data collated on behalf of HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under sections 18 and 20 of the offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Cleveland were not able to provide data for 2005-06. Cumbria were not able to provide data for 2006-07 and 2007-08, North Yorkshire and South Wales were not able to provide data for 2005-06 to 2007-08

[3] Derbyshire in all years and Devon and Cornwall in 2005-06 only were not able to separately identify the degree of assault.

Table B: Assaults[1] on police officers on duty, 2008-09 to 2009-10

	2008-09			*2009-10*		
Police force area	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*	*Minor or no injury*
Metropolitan police	0	179	1,941	0	177	1,720
Nottinghamshire	0	0	177	0	0	110
England and Wales total[2,3,4]	1	439	9,882	0	381	7,794

[1] Provisional data collated on behalf of HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under sections 18 and 20 of the offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces

[2] Data on 'minor or no injury' for Cleveland were not available for 2008-09.

[3] Cumbria and North Yorkshire were not able to provide data for 2008-09.

[4] Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Hampshire and North Yorkshire were not able to provide data for 2009-10.

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to publish draft legislation and guidance on terrorist protection and investigation measures prior to seeking parliamentary approval for the extension of arrangements for control orders. [43277]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* We will introduce the legislation as soon as possible. It was not practical to introduce the Bill before the debates on renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005.

Asylum: Domestic Violence

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what provision her Department makes for the accommodation of asylum seekers with children who have experienced domestic violence; [43402]

(2) what provision her Department makes to assist married or partnered asylum seekers who have experienced domestic violence. [43403]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency guidance for supported asylum seekers who experience domestic violence is set out in "Policy Bulletin 70: Domestic Violence". Requests for assistance from domestic violence victims and their dependants are dealt with promptly with safe and secure accommodation offered immediately. The UK Border Agency will support the victim with their decision to report the incident(s) to social services and/or the police. A case conference may be convened, if appropriate, or local protocols enacted involving relevant corporate partners to agree an action plan, subject to the permission of the victim.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to encourage greater use of automated number plate recognition technology by police forces better to facilitate the policing of *(a)* offences related to driving while uninsured or untaxed and *(b)* other road traffic offences. [44282]

James Brokenshire: Automatic number plate recognition technology is an effective and valuable tool that plays an important role in dealing with the menace of uninsured or untaxed vehicles and other road traffic offences, as well as a wider range of criminal matters by targeting criminals through their use of the roads. The police service is already well aware of the value of ANPR, but decisions on when and how to use that technology are operational decisions for individual police forces in the context of dealing with the full range of local policing issues.

Citizenship

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deprivation of citizenship orders have been issued in each of the last five years. [43724]

Damian Green: In the last five years, deprivation orders have been issued against a total of nine individuals.

In 2010 orders were issued against five individuals.

In 2009 orders were issued against two individuals.

In 2008 no orders were issued.

In 2007 an order was issued against one individual.

In 2006 an order was issued against one individual.

This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Counter-terrorism Review

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 306, on the Counter-terrorism Review, when she expects to introduce the legislative proposals required to implement the outcome of the Counter-terrorism Review. [44030]

Nick Herbert: The Protection of Freedoms Bill, which was introduced on 11 February, is being used for the changes to terrorism stop and search, local authority use of investigatory powers, and pre-charge detention. The draft emergency 28-day pre-charge detention Bills (Draft Detention of Terrorist Suspects (Temporary Extension) Bills) were published as a Command Paper at the same time.

The Government intend to introduce legislation replacing the control order regime as soon as possible. In the interim, we are seeking to renew the control order legislation (Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005) until the end of the year to allow time for new legislation on the replacement regime to be considered.

On the wider question of communications data, the Government intend to ensure that as far as possible, they are accessed only through the revised regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. We will bring forward specific legislation to this effect in a future communications data Bill.

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the new funds recently announced for surveillance of terrorist suspects will be distributed to *(a)* the Special Branch and *(b)* SO13. [43031]

Nick Herbert: We do not provide detailed breakdowns of what money we provide for specific security activities as this would provide detailed information about our capabilities and techniques which could undermine national security.

Crime: Victims

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people in England were a victim of crime in each year from 1997 to 2010; [42996]

(2) how many people in England were a victim of serious crime in each year from 1997 to 2010. [42997]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: There are two main sources of official statistics on crime in England and Wales: police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey (BCS).

The BCS provides an estimate of the number of crimes where the victim was an adult resident in households and published figures are available for England and Wales on trends since 1997 in the annual statistical bulletin "Crime in England and Wales 2009/10" (Tables 2.01 and 2.02), a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. However, the main BCS crime count does not include all crimes experienced by victims resident in households, with homicide and sexual offences notable omissions. In addition, child victims and other victims not resident in households have previously been excluded from the survey.

The police recorded crime series covers all crimes reported to the police but is restricted to the subset of crimes that are notifiable and has been affected by changes in levels of public reporting, police recording practices and also policing activity. Published figures are available for England and Wales on trends since 1997 in the annual statistical bulletin "Crime in England and Wales 2009/10" (Table 2.04).

The annual statistical bulletin provides detailed breakdowns of crimes by offence types but there is not an official classification of "serious crime".

Crimes of Violence: Women

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to tackle violence against women and girls. [44233]

Lynne Featherstone: The ambition of this Government is to end all forms of violence against women and girls. 'Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls', published in November 2010, sets out the Government's guiding principles in this area over the spending review period, including a commitment from the Home Office to provide £28 million of funding for specialist services.

A detailed set of supporting actions together with a full response to Baroness Stern's review into the way rape complaints are handled by public authorities will be published on International Women's Day, on 8 March.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43317]

Damian Green: The Home Office do not contract directly for food supplies but procure catering services through wider FM or operating service contracts. We have as part of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) led initiatives in this respect contacted the relevant suppliers and have received some initial responses indicating that the proportion of food already procured that meets British standards is in the region of 70% to 100%. However, as this does not cover all the suppliers or all food groups, we will be working with the suppliers to continue to understand exactly what proportions do meet British production standards and what potential there is to increase this percentage.

The Home office will be contributing to the DEFRA led report on this matter which is planned for June 2011.

Departmental Official Residences

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of residences used by Ministers in her Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [43218]

Damian Green: No costs have been incurred by the Department on official residences since May 2010.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that her published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in her Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which she is responsible. [43533]

Damian Green: The level of salary disclosure in organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Departmental Public Bodies

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by her Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43749]

Damian Green: The external audit fee costs recorded in the published annual Home Office Resource Accounts were:

£000

	Financial year		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
(a) Home Office and agencies	911.0	979.0	1,064.0
(b) NDPBs			
IPCC	38.0	41.0	45.0
ISA	10.0	30.0	40.0

			£000
		Financial year	
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
NPIA	180.0	155.0	162.0
OISC	17.0	22.0	27.0
SIA	27.5	31.0	46.0
SOCA	211.0	142.0	153.0
Home Office, agencies and NDPBs consolidated	1,394.5	1,400.0	1,537.0

The only supplier of external audit services to the Home Office, Home Office agencies, and Home Office non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is National Audit Office (NAO).

It should be noted that:

NDPBs make near-cash/non-ringfence payments to NAO for their external audit services.

The Home Office and agencies record a notional (ringfence/non-cash cost) in their accounts for external audit fee costs.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations her Department introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42080]

Nick Herbert: The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations were introduced between 18 November 2010 and 8 February 2011.

The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No.2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2807) on 21 November 2010

The Police Authority (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2826) on 24 November 2010

The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and permitted temporary activities) (Forms and notices) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I 2010/2851) on 29 November 2010

The Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2958) on 13 December 2010

The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/3018) on 20 December 2010

The Police Authority (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/3030) on 21 December 2010

The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/230) on 4 February 2011

Detention Centres

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stateless persons *(a)* are resident in the UK, *(b)* are lawfully resident in the UK, *(c)* are held in immigration detention because they (i) have no leave to remain and (ii) are subject to removal proceedings after having served a prison sentence and *(d)* are serving sentences in UK prisons. [43393]

Damian Green: The Office for National Statistics do not have the information necessary to make an estimate of the number of stateless people in the UK. Estimates of the UK population by nationality are available from the Annual Population Survey but there is no coding for stateless persons. Published tables are available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15147

According to internal UK Border Agency management information, there are currently no stateless persons in immigration detention. Additionally, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) do not separately record the number of stateless persons in prison in their published statistics.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the time taken in transferring immigrants diagnosed with a mental illness from detention centres to appropriate healthcare settings; and what steps her Department is taking to reduce the time taken in such transfers. [43429]

Damian Green: All detainees have access to secondary health care services, including mental health provision. Responsibility for providing secondary health care treatment for immigration detainees rests with primary care trusts, including the hospitalisation of those with acute mental health illness. There have on occasion been unacceptable delays in such detainees being provided with a bed, and the UK Border Agency has therefore been working with the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice's Mental Health Unit to refine processes so that primary care trusts deliver treatment promptly.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the publication of responses to the consultation on her proposals for student visas. [42095]

Damian Green: A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. Responses to the consultation are currently being considered. The results of the consultation, including an overview of the consultation responses, and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were granted settlement in 2010 initially entered the UK on student visas. [43263]

Damian Green *[holding answer 2 March 2011]*: The UK Border Agency published research entitled "The Migrant Journey" in September 2010, which provides a breakdown of those granted settlement in 2009 by their original route of entry. The report is available in the Library of the House.

The UK Border Agency is currently planning to update the data in this report, once the data have been finalised, the relevant datasets combined and checked, and the analysis undertaken. The updated statistics for 2010 will be made available later this year once this work has been carried out.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from outside the EU were granted visas to study at each *(a)* privately- and *(b)* publicly-funded further education institution that had been (i) awarded and (ii) not awarded highly trusted status by the UK Border Agency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [43489]

Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Computer Hacking

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether data losses have been reported to her Department by the security services as a result of computer hacking by media organisations in the last 12 months. [42235]

Nick Herbert: No data losses have been reported to the Home Office by the security services as a result of computer hacking by media organisations in the last 12 months.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consideration she has given to the proscription of Hizb ut-Tahrir under the Terrorism Act 2000. [41384]

Nick Herbert: The Government do not normally comment on whether an organisation is, or is not, under consideration for proscription. However, Hizb ut-Tahrir is an organisation about which the Government have significant concerns and its activities are closely monitored.

Homicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the homicide rate was in each of the last 10 years. [44811]

Nick Herbert: Available information is from the Homicide Index as at 28 September 2010. It relates to offences currently recorded as homicide in England and Wales and was published in table 1.01 of the latest homicide chapter, which is available online at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf

The following table shows the number of homicides per million population for each year in the period 2000-01 to 2009-10. Data are shown according to the year in which offences were initially recorded as homicide; this is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made. Data for 2010-11 are scheduled to be published in January 2012.

Rate of currently recorded homicides[1]: 2000-01 to 2009-10[2]—England and Wales, recorded crime

	Offences per million population
Year[2]	*Number*
2001-02	15.2
2002-03[3]	17.9
2003-04	14.6
2004-05	14.7
2005-06	13.3
2006-07	13.3
2007-08	13.8
2008-09	11.8
2009-10	11.3

[1] As at 28 September 2010, figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Data are shown according to the year in which offences were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place, or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Calculation includes 172 victims of Dr Harold Shipman.

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to allow local authorities to access police data systems for the purpose of reducing housing benefit and council tax fraud. [44873]

Nick Herbert: There are arrangements already in place by which a Government Department or other public body may make request to the Association of Chief Police officers (ACPO) for access to police data systems for the purposes of crime detection or prevention.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce the Government's strategy on human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [44274]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 March 2011]*: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. We are committed to tackling organised crime groups which profit from this human misery and to protecting victims. We intend to publish our new strategy on human trafficking in the spring.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil penalties have been imposed on employers for employing illegal workers since the introduction of the provision; and how much was *(a)* levied and *(b)* collected in each quarter since the introduction of the provision. [43916]

Damian Green *[holding answer 3 March 2011]*: Since the introduction of the illegal working civil penalty regime on 29 February 2008 to 31 January 2011, a total of 5,661 notices of liability for a civil penalty have been issued to employers.

The following table shows the amounts levied and collected in each quarter since the first penalty was issued in May 2008 under Section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

Quarter	*Amount levied*	£ *Amount collected*
2008		
April to June	3.44 million	15,000
July to September	4.70 million	322,000
October to December	3.14 million	508,000
2009		
January to March	5.43 million	465,000
April to June	4.46 million	649,000
July to September	8.60 million	907,000
October to December	4.37 million	1.22 million
2010		
January to March	5.80 million	1.46 million
April to June	5.47 million	1.61 million
July to September	4.47 million	1.70 million
October to December	3.20 million	1.80 million

Note:
These data are derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. It is important to note that the amount levied does not represent the recoverable value of illegal working civil penalties debt, since civil penalties may be reduced, cancelled or increased after consideration of objections submitted to the CPCT and reduced or cancelled after consideration of Appeals submitted to the county courts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Sheriff's Courts in Scotland.

Immigration Controls

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to consult on proposals to reduce levels of net migration through routes other than student visas. [44049]

Damian Green: We have already set out our approach this year to economic migration. We will shortly announce proposals for reforming the student visa system, following consideration of responses to our recent public consultation. We will launch further consultations on settlement and the family routes later this year.

Immigration: Heathrow Airport

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average immigration queuing times for *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals were at Heathrow airport in each of the last 12 months; what targets have been set for such queuing times; how frequently these targets have not been met in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will take steps to publish regular information on queuing times for immigration. [43738]

Damian Green *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The national target set out in the UK Border Agency business plan for passenger clearance is to clear 95% of European economic area (EEA) passengers within 25 minutes and 95% of non-EEA passengers within 45 minutes. The performance against those targets for Heathrow over the last 12 months is set out in the following table:

	Percentage of EEA queues within target waiting time	*Percentage of non-EEA queues within target waiting time*
February 2010	100.0	99.3
March 2010	99.9	98.8
April 2010	99.7	96.7
May 2010	99.9	98.5
June 2010	99.5	94.6
July 2010	99.2	91.3
August 2010	99.5	97.3
September 2010	99.3	87.4
October 2010	99.5	96.1
November 2010	99.4	97.1
December 2010	99.5	96.1
January 2011	99.4	95.2

The monthly performance target was not met for non-EEA passengers on three occasions over the 12 month period.

Performance against passenger clearance targets will be published at a national level from April 2011 onwards as part of the Government's Transparency Framework.

Lord Macdonald of River Glaven

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met Lord Macdonald of River Glaven QC. [42094]

Mrs May: I last spoke to Lord MacDonald of River Glaven QC on 25 January 2011.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 12 January 2011 on correspondence from the Chair of the West Midlands police authority. [39513]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 21 February 2011. A copy of the letter has been placed in the House Library.

Missing Persons

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of police forces which are complying with the Police Code of Practice for Missing Persons Data. [44164]

Nick Herbert: As of 3 March 2011 the number of Home Office police forces that are complying fully with both aspects of the code of practice is 19.

These figures reflect data held centrally on that date. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Operation Viper

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future funding arrangements for Operation Viper. [44206]

Nick Herbert: We plan to set aside specific grant funding to ensure that the collaborative response to organised crime is maintained throughout England and Wales. A decision will be made shortly on how the funding allocated for this purpose will be disbursed.

Police: Accountability

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how she plans to redistribute funds from the Neighbourhood Policing Fund following the introduction of police and crime commissioners; [41885]

(2) what assumptions her Department has made for business planning purposes of the likely change in the number of police community support officers in each police force area in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [42098]

Nick Herbert: The Government believe that police community support officers are a part of the policing family, providing a visible, uniformed presence on our streets. We have maintained the Neighbourhood Policing Fund for a transitional period until the introduction of police and crime commissioners (PCCs) except for London, where the Metropolitan Police Authority will have full autonomy over this funding from 2011-12.

From 2013-14 the Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF) will be subsumed into the police main grant and PCCs will have full discretion over this funding.

Police: Defamation

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision her Department makes for *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support for police officers who take legal action as a result of experiencing defamation in the course of their duties. [42199]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not allocate funding to the police for this purpose and does not provide any other support to officers under these circumstances. This is a matter for the relevant police authority.

Police: Demonstrations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the proportionality of the use of CS gas by police officers against protestors in Oxford street on 29 January 2011. [42964]

Nick Herbert: A decision to use CS spray rests with the individual officer in line with the legal framework which provides that a police officer may use such force only as is reasonable or necessary in order to prevent crime, or effect or assist in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders.

Police: Finance

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to revise the funding formula for grants to police authorities; and if she will make a statement. [44526]

Nick Herbert: The Department for Communities and Local Government led on an overarching consultation during the summer of 2010 on technical improvements to the means by which funding is allocated to all local authorities. This included the police allocation formula (PAF), which is used to allocate funding to police authorities.

All police authorities, forces and policing partners were able to submit representations setting out their views on the proposed changes. Home Office Ministers took into consideration all representations made as part of this consultation, as well as recommendations from the police allocation formula working group. They decided to make three technical changes to the formula:

Rolling Rule 2 Grant, the Crime Fighting Fund and the Basic Command Unit Fund into Police Main Grant;

Changing the measurement of bar density;

Using updated Activity Based Costing (ABC) data

There are currently no plans to review the formula further.

Police: Length of Service

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force had served 30 or more years as of 1 January 2011. [42346]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: The available data are provided in the table which shows the number of police officers in each police force area with 30 years service or more, as at 31 March 2010. The length of service for police officers for 2011 is not yet available.

Police officers in each police force area with 30 years service or more on 31 March 2010[1]

	Number
Avon and Somerset	47
Bedfordshire	26
British Transport police	244
Cambridgeshire	16
Cheshire	[2]—
Cleveland	60
Cumbria	17
Derbyshire	67
Devon and Cornwall	52
Dorset	20
Durham	36
Dyfed-Powys	24
Essex	79
Gloucestershire	11
Greater Manchester	64
Gwent	15
Hampshire	72
Hertfordshire	40
Humberside	26
Kent	78
Lancashire	50
Leicestershire	34
Lincolnshire	16
London, City of	31
Merseyside	122
Metropolitan police	1,154
Norfolk	7
Northamptonshire	17
Northumbria	34
North Wales	21
North Yorkshire	12

Police officers in each police force area with 30 years service or more on 31 March 2010[1]

	Number
Nottinghamshire	57
South Wales	53
South Yorkshire	20
Staffordshire	40
Suffolk	13
Surrey	35
Sussex	41
Thames Valley	64
Warwickshire	11
West Mercia	81
West Midlands	198
West Yorkshire	126
Wiltshire	29
Total	3,260

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Cheshire is unable to provide length of service figures.

Police: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the likely effects of her proposals to reduce the police grant on the level of crime in Liverpool. [41939]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Government do not accept that reducing costs will cause an increase in crime. What matters is how resources are used and how officers are deployed.

Police: Mass Media

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received on the use of private investigators by media organisations to follow serving police officers in the course of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [42195]

Nick Herbert: We have received no such reports.

Police: Public Order

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to produce standard national guidelines on policing public order events. [43730]

Nick Herbert: The Association of Chief Police Officers published updated guidance on public order policing in December 2010. The Government are currently considering the Policing Public Order Report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in February 2011.

Police: Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* people who volunteered and *(b)* hours given by volunteers in police services in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [41975]

Nick Herbert: There were 16,772 special constables (headcount) in the 43 forces of England and Wales as at 30 September 2010. Data on the hours of duty performed by special constables for 2009-10 are not available centrally.

The Home Office does not collect figures on any other voluntary police staff other than special constables. The latest provisional police service strength statistics relate to 30 September 2010 and were published on 27 January 2011. They are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

Full annual statistics for 31 March 2011 are expected to be published in July 2011.

Policy: Bureaucracy

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to implement the recommendations of the report by Jan Berry on Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing. [43722]

Nick Herbert: We are already implementing recommendations from Jan Berry's report on Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing, including returning certain charging decisions to the police, a more proportionate approach to inspections, and revising the police performance development reviews. We are continuing to take forward work that will reduce unnecessary police bureaucracy.

Regulations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulations sponsored by her Department have been *(a)* introduced since 18 November 2010 and *(b)* revoked since 2 February 2011. [44365][1]

Nick Herbert: The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations have been made by the Department on or after 18 November 2010.

S.I. No.	*S.I. Title*	*Made date*
2010 No. 2807	The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	21 November 2010
2010 No. 2826	The Police Authority (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2010	24 November 2010
2010 No. 2851	The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and permitted temporary activities) (Forms and notices) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	29 November 2010
2010 No. 2958	The Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	13 December 2010
2010 No. 3018	The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2010	20 December 2010
2010 No. 3030	The Police Authority (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2010	21 December 2010
2011 No. 230	The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2011	4 February 2011
2011 No. 300	The Police Act 1996 (Equipment) Regulations 2011	9 February 2011
2011 No. 448	The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2011	18 February 2011
2011 No. 544	The Immigration (Accession and Worker Registration) (Revocation, Savings and Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2011	24 February 2011

1.*[Official Report, 14 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 1MC.]*

The following statutory instruments in the form of regulations are revoked by the Department since 2 February. None of the revocations are yet in force.

(1) Regulations revoked	*(2) References*	*(3) Extent of revocation*	*(4) Revoking instrument*
The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2010	S.I 2010/1144	Regulation 3(a)	S.I 2011/544
The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006	S.I. 2006/1003	Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5	S.I 2011/544
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006	S.I. 2006/3317	Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2	S.I 2011/544
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations 2007	S.I. 2007/475	Regulation 3	S.I 2011/544
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007	S.I. 2007/928	The whole Regulations	S.I 2011/544
The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2007	S.I. 2007/3012	Regulation 3	S.I 2011/544
The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	S.I. 2009/892	The whole Regulations	S.I 2011/544
The Accession (Worker Authorisation and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	S.I. 2009/2426	Regulation 3	S.I 2011/544

Telecommunications: Databases

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress she has made on the Intercept Modernisation Programme; and if she will make a statement. [42550]

Nick Herbert: The Interception Modernisation Programme was a programme under the last Government. As made clear in the strategic defence and security review, the Government will continue to build on an existing programme of work to preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and to intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. We will legislate to ensure this is compatible with the Government's approach to civil liberties and use of communications capabilities. As set out in the Home Office's structural reform plan, details of this legislation will be announced in Parliament in due course.

Telephone hacking: Newspaper Press

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will request a report from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on how many current and former hon. Members are listed in the evidence file for the *News of the World* telephone hacking inquiry held by the Metropolitan police. [42196]

Nick Herbert: No. The Metropolitan police investigation is ongoing. The police have recently said that in the light of fresh evidence they have identified some individuals who had previously been advised that there was little or no information held by the MPS relating to them and that they are taking urgent steps to notify these individuals of developments. They have undertaken to contact anyone else who may be identified as a possible victim in the light of the ongoing consideration of the evidence.

Terrorism: Biological Weapons

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent reports she has received on the development of biological weapons by al-Qaeda in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement on the Government's preparedness for a biological attack; [42330]

(2) what measures are in place to respond to a biological attack by international terrorists; and whether such measures include the stockpiling of vaccines; [42331]

(3) what types of biological terrorist threat she has assessed as posing the greatest risk to the UK; [42332]

(4) whether emergency service personnel are routinely vaccinated against potential biological terrorist threats; [42333]

(5) what her policy is on the vaccination of emergency services personnel as part of the preparedness plans for the London 2012 Olympics. [42334]

Nick Herbert: Reports on the development of biological weapons by al-Qaeda in Afghanistan would be classified. The Home Office works across Government to examine all available information and intelligence. The risk that different types of biological terrorist threats pose to the UK and the response that is appropriate to those risks is regularly reviewed and re-assessed.

The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act (ATCSA) 2001, Part 7, legislates for the security of dangerous substances that may be targeted or used by terrorists and covers biological agents which pose the greatest risk to the UK. Schedule 5 of the Act lists the biological pathogens and toxins to which the provisions of Part 7 apply. This covers both human and animal pathogens and not only the wild-type or 'intact' micro-organisms and toxins, but also genetic sequences derived from or coding for such substances. Selection of materials has been dependent upon a number of factors and is undertaken by a team of government and academic experts.

Over the past six years, the UK has built up capability to prepare for a CBRN terrorist attack. Initial programmes are largely complete, however we are currently undergoing a programme of work to review and potentially augment and improve this capability.

A wide range of possible incidents or attacks has been considered. Following this process, the UK Health Departments have established an appropriate stockpile of vaccines, medical countermeasures and specialist equipment to be used to protect and treat the public. For reasons of national security, it would be inappropriate to specify what particular countermeasures are held and where they are located.

Government have taken steps to protect emergency service personnel against such threats. A cohort of frontline health workers has been vaccinated to deal with any initial suspected or confirmed cases of smallpox. No additional plans are in place specifically in response to the impending London 2012 Olympics, although risks are regularly reviewed based in part on the threat level in the national risk assessment (NRA).

There is no current plan to make a statement on these issues due to the classified nature of much of the information in this area.

Terrorism: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of terrorist offences in Coventry in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [42869]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collate statistics in this way. However, the Home Office does publish statistics on arrests and outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 ("Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches"). The link to the last edition of the publication is provided as follows:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1810.pdf

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account she has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42601]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office considers the role of the Compact to be central to the relationship between the Department and civil society organisations. We strive to ensure that Compact principles are firmly embedded within Home Office policy development, not only when engaging with our stakeholders, but also in exemplifying better financial management of grants. A senior Home Office official has been identified to act as 'Compact Champion' for my Department. This role extends beyond the core Home Office to its agencies and other related statutory partners and we are keen to ensure steps are taken, at key opportunities to reinforce Compact compliance issues with those partners.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42643]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is fully supportive of the big society vision. It is clear that communities are safer places when local people are actively involved in maintaining order and have a say in how they are policed and how other services are provided. Baroness Newlove was appointed the Government's Champion for Active, Safer Communities in October 2010 and she will be making recommendations to Government about what needs to change in order to encourage and support more people to get actively involved in keeping their communities safer.

The Government have also taken steps to ensure that there is more information in the hands of the public. Through the police.uk website we have recently given communities across England and Wales easy access to street level crime and antisocial behaviour data for their area, alongside key neighbourhood policing information, such as details of their local neighbourhood policing team, details of their next beat meeting and how to get involved.

We are replacing police authorities with directly elected police and crime commissioners. Police and crime commissioners will give accountability at the police force level and regular beat meetings will give direct accountability in neighbourhoods.

Translation Services

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police officers in *(a)* the Metropolitan police, *(b)* Nottinghamshire police and *(c)* all police forces in England and Wales required the services of a translator in each year since 1997; and how many languages were involved in each force in each such year. [43769]

Nick Herbert: Information is not collected centrally on the number of occasions interpretation and translation services have been required by individual police forces nor on the languages for which such services were required. A project, led by the Ministry of Justice, is under way to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the arrangements across the whole of the justice system, including interpretation and translation services provided to the police.

Young People: Protection

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were barred from working with children and vulnerable adults by the Independent Safeguarding Authority on the grounds of *(a)* harm to and *(b)* risk of harm to 16 and 17-year-olds in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [44038]

Lynne Featherstone: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) does not collect data in the form requested.

The ISA operates under powers established in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which defines a child as anyone who has not attained the age of 18. The ISA can bar individuals who demonstrate harm or a risk of harm to children in general rather than those defined by any specific age category.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to increase the number of successful adoption applications. [38927]

Tim Loughton: The Government expects the adoption system to work effectively for all looked-after children who would benefit from this permanence option. I want to see more children adopted where this is in their best interests, less delay, timely matching (particularly for black and minority ethnic children) and better collaboration between local authorities and the voluntary sector.

I want more people to consider being adopters. That is why, for instance, the Department provides funding to the British Association for Adoption and Fostering's National Adoption Week, which raises awareness of and dispels myths about adoption. I also want local authorities and other adoption agencies to think hard about how they respond to people who enquire about adopting a child. Those who are not needed by the agency in question should be directed to another adoption agency so that the interest of potentially suitable people is not lost. The revised statutory adoption guidance which I will be issuing shortly makes this clear.

Children in Care: Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that the care system only seeks adoption in cases where children cannot return to their parents. [35976]

Tim Loughton: The law is very clear that children should live with their parents wherever possible. Where a child is suffering, or is at risk of suffering, significant harm, the local authority has a duty to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. Local authorities cannot remove children from their parents (without the parents' consent) without first referring the matter to a court, and they cannot place a child for adoption (without the parents' consent) without a placement order made by a court.

Local authorities must demonstrate that they have explored options for supporting the family before they apply for care proceedings. But I do want to see more children who really are unable return to their birth family safely find a stable and happy home with adoptive parents. That is why I have written to local authorities to ask them to do everything possible to increase the number of children appropriately placed for adoption, and why I have set up a Ministerial Advisory Group on Adoption to provide expert advice on a range of practical proposals to improve practice and issued revised guidance.

The review by Professor Munro is looking at the whole issue of safeguarding, frontline practice and transparency, while the Family Justice Review is considering what changes are needed to the system so that it best benefits all children and families involved in proceedings.

Children: Carers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of carers working with children in each region. [40195]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Children: Parental Access

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure equality of access of parents to their children in divorce cases. [44396]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* At present, a statement of arrangements for children is filed with the petition in any divorce proceedings where there is a child of the family under the age of 18. It allows the petitioner to inform the court of the proposed arrangements for the children. The respondent can sign the statement to show their agreement if they wish. If the parties need a court order to decide the contact or residence arrangements after a divorce, this is applied for in separate proceedings under section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

One of the principles within which the current Family Justice Review is operating is that the positive involvement of both parents should be promoted post-separation. The review is looking in particular at how to promote contact for non-resident parents. The Review Panel, which is independently chaired, is due to issue its interim report for consultation on 31 March, followed by a final report in the autumn. We shall be considering carefully its recommendations.

College of Social Work

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of the College of Social Work. [35710]

Tim Loughton: In 2009 the Social Work Task Force recommended the establishment of an independent College of Social Work to articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession itself strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of professional social work standards.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education has oversight of this work and in the past month has had several conversations relating to the College with the chief executive of the British Association of Social Workers, has met Moira Gibb, the chair of the Social Work Reform Board, and met the interim co-chairs of the College of Social Work last month.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has sought legal advice on the use of the title of College of Social Work by his Department's College of Social Work. [41231]

Tim Loughton: Legal advice has been provided to Ministers on related matters. This advice is, in the Department's view, subject to legal professional privilege.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what role he envisages for the Social Care Institute for Excellence in the operation of the College of Social Work. [41234]

Tim Loughton: The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has been asked to facilitate the establishment of the College of Social Work, providing administrative support and expertise in a developmental phase of two years. Neither Government nor SCIE seek to influence the form or function of the emerging college. SCIE will have no role in the governance of the College that emerges.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many letters from hon. Members his Department received between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011; and how many such letters have received a substantive reply to date within the internal performance management targets set by his Department. [44724]

Tim Loughton: The Department's correspondence target is to answer correspondence from hon. Members within 15 working days of receipt. Between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011, 5,678 letters were received, of which 1,160 had a substantive reply within the Department's target.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what specialist sports schools and colleges each Minister in his Department has visited since their appointment. [32078]

Tim Loughton: *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* Since May 2010, the Secretary of State for Education has visited three schools with a specialism in sport: Harefield Academy in Hillingdon, City of London Academy in Southwark, and Consett Community Sports College. The Minister of State for Schools, the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb) has visited Royal Alexandra and Albert School in Reigate. The Minister of State for Children and Families, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather) has visited Lyng Hall Specialist Sports College and Community School in Coventry

The Secretary of State was impressed with the way the academies were making maximum use of the freedoms afforded to them by their academy status to improve provision for their pupils, both within their sport specialism and across the whole curriculum.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011; and how many such requests received a substantive reply within *(a)* the statutory deadlines laid down by the Act and *(b)* the internal performance management targets set by his Department. [44723]

Tim Loughton: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the performance of about 40 central Government monitored bodies in dealing with requests under the Freedom of Information Act. Statistics for the second and third quarters of 2010 covering the period April to September can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation quarterly.htm

and copies are available in the House Libraries.

The statistics for the fourth quarter of 2010 will be published on 28 April 2011 in the 'Annual Report on Freedom of Information in Central Government 2010'. Statistics for the first quarter of 2011 will be published at the end of June 2011.

Monitoring of compliance of requests under the Freedom of Information Act is in accordance with the statutory deadlines set out in that Act and takes no account of any internal correspondence deadlines.

Departmental Communications Officers

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each other non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [38956]

Tim Loughton: *[holding answer 9 February 2011]* The annual Cabinet Office 'Back Office Benchmarking' survey publishes the number of staff employed in communications roles by government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

The survey also includes staff numbers employed in key back office functions including Human Resources, Finance, Procurement, ICT, Property, Legal and Knowledge and Information Management.

The most recent survey, for the financial year 2009/10, was published in December 2010 at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/back-office-benchmark-information-200910

Departmental Travel

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on Ministerial travel since May 2010. [35204]

Tim Loughton: Since May 2010, this Department has been committed to publishing quarterly online information on all ministerial overseas travel, including cost. The published information can be viewed at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmental information/transparency/a0065263/ministers-quarterly-returns

The information for October to December 2010 will be published in due course. Information regarding the cost of ministerial rail and taxi travel is not recorded separately and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on the 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 839W, on the Department's expenditure on services provided by the Government Car Service.

All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions his Department has had with the organisers of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme on the promotion of that scheme in schools. [38499]

Tim Loughton: The Department has had no recent discussions with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme about the promotion of their programme in schools and have not been approached to do this. I support the valuable work of the scheme and I know the positive influence it can have on young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Family Intervention Projects

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many families have received assistance from family intervention projects in 2010-11 to date; and what estimate he has made of the number to receive such assistance in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [43368]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The latest official statistics show that 4,870 families received a family intervention up to 31 March 2010. Figures for families supported up to 31 March 2011 will be published in September. We are not able to provide estimates for the number of families to receive support in future years. Decisions on this are determined locally, reflecting local needs.

Fee Schools: Public Expenditure

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he has allocated to capital expenditure on free schools over the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [39719]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:]* £50 million has been set aside in 2010-11 to meet the capital needs of free schools. Beyond that, provision forms part of the overall spending review settlement for schools. Allocations for free schools have yet to be decided and will be dependent in part on the conclusion of the capital review which we intend to publish in the spring.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18748]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. The Department takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations; an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 17 December 2010, concerning Mr Larrett. [43568]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Schools (Mr Gibb) replied to the letter on 1 March.

Progress Project

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the performance of the Progress project against its objectives in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region. [41010]

Tim Loughton: *[holding answer 15 February 2011]* The Progress project, which aims to build the capacity of those working with young people in the voluntary and community sector, has been run by the Children's Workforce Development Council since October 2010. Data on the performance of the project are not currently available. However, the project is being independently evaluated and the report is expected in the Spring.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of levels of social capital on levels of educational attainment. [38315]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not commissioned research to examine the effect of levels of social capital on levels of educational attainment. The Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning (a research centre previously sponsored by the Department) has however published a report on this topic in 2007, "The development and impact of Young people's social capital in secondary schools". This reports on three types of social capital and how they impact on education and wider outcomes.

The Department has evaluated the evidence in the related area of deprivation and education. This looks at culture and social capital and the experience of schooling. The research evidence was published in a topic note "Deprivation and Education – The Evidence on Pupils in England: Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4" in March 2009.

Schools: Food

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for regulations pertaining to the quality and provision of food in schools. [41277]

Sarah Teather: The current school food standards were put in place because there was evidence that the quality of food in schools was not good. The standards have been fully implemented only since September 2009 after a phased introduction and they are still relatively new. We want to allow a period of 'settling in' before reviewing them. We will do this after the School Food Trust's study of the provision and consumption of food at lunch time in secondary schools has reported.

Sixth Form Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he undertook an assessment of the likely effect on the *(a)* curriculum, *(b)* enrolment advice, *(c)* on-programme support, *(d)* mentoring, *(e)* counselling, *(f)* health advice, *(g)* progression guidance, *(h)* careers guidance and *(i)* provision of non-certificated enrichment activities of post-16 students in his decision to reduce the funding for entitlement to 30 funded learning hours. [34897]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* We have had to make some difficult choices in order to tackle the budget deficit. Our first priority has been to protect the core education programmes offered by schools and colleges. This covers the whole range of courses including A levels, vocational qualifications, foundation learning and apprenticeships that equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to progress.

In addition, the savings we have made have enabled us to increase funding for the more disadvantaged and those needing additional support. £150 million of the funding that has been released from reducing the entitlement has been used to increase by almost a third the proportion of funding in the national funding formula which addresses deprivation. Schools and colleges will have the freedom to use this additional investment in the way they see fit in order to provide the activities that contribute to improved retention, attainment and successful progression. In addition we will also be re-investing over £200 million in increasing the size of programmes for students working below level 2 to give them the opportunity to gain level 1 and 2 qualifications.

Teachers: Misconduct

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to introduce a mechanism to provide anonymity for any teacher who is subject to an allegation of misconduct by a pupil. [38091]

Tim Loughton: The Government has included provisions in the Education Bill intended to provide teachers in schools with protection from false allegations by giving them a legal right to anonymity when accused by or on behalf of pupils at their school that they have committed a criminal offence until the point they are charged, minimising the destruction that false accusations can wreak.

These provisions impose reporting restrictions on the media preventing the publication or broadcast of any information likely to identify the teacher concerned. Publication includes social networking sites. This follows the commitment in the Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" to protect teachers from malicious allegations by legislating to grant teachers anonymity when they are the subject of an allegation that they have committed a criminal offence by or on behalf of a pupil at the school.

Teaching Methods: Reading

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress has been made in expanding the Every Child a Reader scheme. [42228]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The Government committed £89 million of central funding to continue all three Every Child Programmes for 2010-2011. In the future, funding for these programmes will form part of the overall schools budget, and it will be for local authorities (LAs), in consultation with their Schools Forum, to decide on 2011-12 allocations to schools, taking account of previous levels of funding.

There are 138 LA's involved in the Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programme this year, with 14 LAs choosing not to participate. Latest figures held by the Department (from autumn 2010) show that 21,979 children are involved in the ECaR programme.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what reviews relating to children and young people he has established since the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued its concluding observations on the UK on 3 October 2008; and how many of those reviews included an explicit reference to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in their terms of reference. [19586]

Sarah Teather: This Government are committed to the UNCRC and to the implementation of the Convention in the UK. The Department routinely invites the Children's Commissioner and non-governmental organisations, whose thinking is informed by the UNCRC, to feed into all significant consultations and reviews. It also involves children and young people in the development and review of policy.

All reviews led by the Department for Education and its predecessor Department since the UN Committee published its Concluding Observations in October 2008 relate to children and young people and touch their lives in some way. A list and terms of reference are not provided on the grounds of disproportionate cost, but there have been significant reviews on matters that affect children and young people, such as the impact of the commercial world, sex and relationships, mental health, safeguarding and major policy statements on key areas such as education and child poverty. In particular, the review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner asked how the role can be configured to better demonstrate Government's commitment to UNCRC.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43235]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has a policy to encourage its employees to volunteer, offering up to two days of paid special leave per year for non-statutory volunteering (such as being a trustee of a charity, or being a reading mentor at a local school). This is agreed with an individual employee's line manager. The Department also offers up to six days of paid special leave per year for school governors and up to 18 days of paid special leave per year for being a Justice of the Peace.

The Department is currently looking to encourage more employee volunteering, in line with the principles of the Big Society.

The Department has a Charitable Giving Scheme which enables employees to give tax-free donations regularly to a charity or charities of their choice through the payroll. Information on the scheme is available to all employees through the Department's intranet.

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department made as to the number of columns and lines required in *Hansard* for a published reply to written parliamentary question 20371. [36364]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not estimate the number of columns and lines required to publish a reply in *Hansard*. If a response to a PQ is longer than *Hansard* would normally publish (over 4 pages of tables), notification will be printed that the response is available in the Library of the House. The response will be available to Members in the Library and on application to the House of Commons Information Office.

Young People: Crime Prevention

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures he is considering to prevent the involvement of young people in criminal activity. [34112]

Tim Loughton: The Government are committed to intervening early to prevent young people's involvement in criminal activity.

Using funding from the early intervention grant, local areas now have greater flexibility and freedom to invest locally in a wide range of universal and specialist services that support vulnerable young people to achieve positive results, including avoiding criminal activity. While it is for local areas to determine where to target investment most effectively, the Government continue to support and promote a range of evidence-based targeted services for young people at risk of involvement in criminal activity.

In addition, the Government are also reviewing the current set of antisocial behaviour powers to ensure that all local agencies have a toolkit that provides a strong deterrent and is quick, practical and easy to use.

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had on late diagnosis of rarer cancers; with whom; on what dates; with what outcomes; and if he will make a statement. [44109]

Paul Burstow: We received responses from a range of groups representing rarer cancers during the development of "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" which was published in January 2011. Information regarding the engagement with stakeholders is published at annex A of the strategy. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123371

As set out in the strategy, through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, we are planning to work with charities which represent patients with rarer forms of cancer to assess what more can be done to raise awareness of rarer cancers and promote earlier diagnosis.

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43748]

Mr Simon Burns: The expenditure for the Department and each public body sponsored by the Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years is shown in the following table:

Table of external auditor fees for the Department and its ALBs, 2007-08 to 2009-10

£000

Organisation	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Department of Health[1]	567	565	542
Special Health Authorities (SpHAs)			
Information Centre for health and social care	68	70	70
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	54	57	45

Table of external auditor fees for the Department and its ALBs, 2007-08 to 2009-10

£000

Organisation	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
National Patient Safety Agency	46	52	45
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	37	32	32
Appointments Commission	23	28	22
NHS Blood and Transplant	130	138	124
NHS Business Services Authority	148	250	250
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	77	60	43
NHS Litigation Authority	80	85	85
SpHAs Subtotal	663	772	716
Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)			
Alcohol Education and Research Council	7	3	3
Care Quality Commission[2]	150	30	n/a
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	24	22	19
General Social Care Council	81	60	53
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (until April 2008)	48	39	43
Monitor - Independent Regulator of Foundation Trusts[3]	26	27	25
Human Tissue Authority	35	35	23
Health Protection Agency[4]	148	207	192
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	104	104	98
NDPBs Subtotal	623	527	456
Total All	1,853	1,864	1,714

[1] The audit fee represents the cost for the audit of the Department's Consolidated Accounts and the Summarised Accounts of the NHS carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General. This amount does not include fees in respect of non-audit work. In 2008-09 of the total audit fee of £565,000, £65,000 relates to work undertaken in preparation for International Financial Reporting Standard implementation in 2009-10.
It should be noted that the Department of Health audit fee is a non-cash charge and therefore notional. NAO are funded directly by Parliament. In addition the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency, which is not included in the table, and NHS Business Services Authority had audit fees for 2009-10 and 2008-09 that were non-cash.

[2] 2008-09 was first year and only from 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009.

[3] Monitor also paid for audit of consolidated accounts of £86,000, £52,000 and £53,000 in 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 respectively.

[4] The 2007-08 and 2008-09 fees combine the fees incurred by the Health Protection Agency and National Institute for Biological Standards and Control before their merger on 1 April 2009.

Notes:

1. The source of figures is the audited accounts for the relevant year.
2. All bodies were audited by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) the (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public bodies and (C) non-Ministerial Department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43955]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost of running the procurement directorate within the Department for the financial year 2009-10 (the last year for which audited figures are available) was £1,553,145.

A figure for running outsourcing functions within the Department is not available. There are a number of branches and directorates within the Department which undertake outsourcing activity. In addition, policy teams throughout the Department have roles identifying, specifying and managing outsourcing contracts. Accordingly it is not possible to accurately set out the costs and time allocations of all of these functions across the Department.

The cost for the procurement and outsourcing function of the Department's Agency and non-departmental public bodies is shown in the following table:

£

Procurement and outsourcing function	*Cost of procurement 2009-10*	*Cost of outsourcing function 2009-10*
Alcohol Education and Research Council	0	0
Appointments Commission	0	0
Care Quality Commission	401,000	303,400
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	18,975	5,841
General Social Care Council	44,009	n/a
Health Protection Agency	1,100	0
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	0	0
Human Tissue Authority	0	0

£

Procurement and outsourcing function	*Cost of procurement 2009-10*	*Cost of outsourcing function 2009-10*
Monitor	0	0
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency[1]	0	50,000

[1] Denotes Executive Agency, estimate of staff cost spread across the Agency.

Doctors: Training

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that all graduates of medical schools in the UK are able to gain a place on the 2012 Foundation Programme; and if he will make a statement; [41646]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the UK Foundation Programme Office on plans for responding to any oversubscription to the 2012 Foundation Programme; and if he will make a statement. [41647]

Anne Milton: Each year the devolved Administration and Medical Education England Medical Programme Board agree a contingency plan for management of over or under-subscription to the Foundation Programme.

The contingency plan for managing over or under-subscription to the Foundation Programme 2012 is being reviewed by the UK Foundation Programme Office in March 2011.

The number of graduates of United Kingdom medical schools who choose to apply to the Foundation Programme 2012 will not be known until October 2011.

Drugs: Finance

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on medicines for *(a)* primary care, *(b)* secondary care and *(c)* in total for each of the last five years for which figures are available. [43707]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service medicines expenditure in primary care reflects amounts paid to pharmacy and appliance contractors and amounts authorised for dispensing doctors and personal administration in England. Secondary care medicines expenditure includes medical gases. Drugs prescribed in hospitals but dispensed in the community are also included in the secondary care figures.

The following table provides details of the NHS medicines expenditure for the last five years.

NHS medicines expenditure

£ million

	Primary care	*Secondary care*	*Total*
2005-06	7,235	2,764	9,999
2006-07	7,593	2,969	10,562
2007-08	7,663	3,274	10,937
2008-09	7,749	3,647	11,397
2009-10	7,946	3,974	11,920

Source

Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, England, Department of Health Finance Division, Foundation Trust year-end accounts.

GP Consortia

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect of *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU competition rules on the operation of GP consortia. [44028]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill itself does not extend the applicability of current United Kingdom or European Union competition law to the health sector of England.

However, as national health service providers develop and begin to compete actively with other NHS providers and private and voluntary providers, UK and EU competition laws will increasingly become applicable.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value of payments made to other European countries for healthcare provided to British citizens under the European health insurance Card was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of payments received from other European countries under the same scheme was in the same period. [42236]

Anne Milton: For 2009-10, under European Union (EU) Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72, the United Kingdom received £27,714,514.77 from member states of the European economic area (EEA). Over the same period, the UK paid £131,643,287.52 to other member states.

The amounts paid relate to combined claims for temporary visitors (via European health insurance cards) workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

Under EU regulations, claims are made on a calendar year basis, and payments made in any one financial year may relate to one or more prior calendar years.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many disputes arising from the receipt of healthcare in the European Economic Area by UK nationals for which a charge was subsequently made have been brought to the attention of his Department in the last five years; whether there are proposals at EU level to reform the European health insurance card system; and if he will make a statement. [44419]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of claims for reimbursement for incurred costs for state-provided necessary health care in another member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland over the last five years.

Calendar year	Number of claims for reimbursement for necessary care
2006	10,093
2007	10,299
2008	13,328
2009	18,090
2010	17,755

Where a citizen has been charged for states provided necessary treatment provided during a visit to another EEA member state or Switzerland, they can submit a claim to the Department for Work and Pensions, and a reimbursement is made.

The Department of Health is not aware of any European Union level plans to reform the European health insurance Card (EHIC). The Department has, however, raised the issue of non-acceptance of the EHIC, with the European Commission, in a recent evaluation of how the scheme is implemented and administered in member states.

Health: Tendring

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the likely effects of implementation of his proposed changes to the NHS on health inequalities in Tendring. [44448]

Anne Milton: The Government have made it clear that tackling health inequalities is a priority, with a focus on equity and fairness. The Government have made a set of proposals to reduce health inequalities in all areas of England.

The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, set out proposals for the establishment of an independent National Health Service Commissioning Board and a new NHS Outcomes Framework to help tackle inequalities, promote equality, and act as a catalyst for driving up quality across all NHS services.

The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 proposes introducing new legal duties for the Secretary of State, the NHS Commissioning Board and general practice commissioning consortia to have regard to addressing health inequalities.

Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria he plans to apply to the regulation of unlicensed herbal medicines; and if he will make a statement. [43816]

Mr Simon Burns: We recently announced proposals that practitioners wishing to supply unlicensed herbal medicines should be required to be registered with the Health Professions Council. This will enable us to use a derogation in European medicines legislation which permits national arrangements allowing those designated as authorised healthcare professionals to commission an unlicensed medicine on their professional responsibility to meet the special needs of their individual patient. Under these arrangements we would envisage similar criteria applying to practitioners of herbal medicine as is the case with a range of other healthcare practitioners in the United Kingdom who can already commission unlicensed medicines, known as "specials", under such a scheme. Safeguards for the patients are provided primarily by professional regulation of the practitioner and by the role of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in regulating the manufacturers and distributors of the products.

We also propose that in future practitioners of herbal medicine wishing to use the provisions of section 12(1) of the Medicines Act 1968 to prepare unlicensed herbal remedies on their own premises to meet the needs of individual patient identified in consultation should be required to register with the Health Professions Council. The introduction of this requirement should strengthen safeguards for patients while ensuring consumers continue to have access to herbal medicines. There will be public consultation on all these proposals.

At 30 April 2011, following the end of the period of transitional protection allowed under Directive 2004/24/EC, section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968 will no longer be available. This provision permitted the marketing of unlicensed herbal remedies in the UK without a requirement for patient consultation and incorporated few safeguards for patients as to the safety and quality of the product or the provision of information about the safe use of the medicine. In future such products will require either a marketing authorisation or a traditional herbal registration.

Homeopathy

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Government response to the petition to the Prime Minister which closed on 6 June 2010 on the recommendations of the Science and Technology Committee's evidence check on homeopathy, what evidence his Department has evaluated on the clinical effectiveness of any homeopathic product. [44230]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) agreed to consider complementary and alternative medicine treatments, including homeopathy, as part of its clinical guidelines programme where appropriate and where suitable evidence exists. NICE has not recommended a homeopathic treatment as yet.

There is information available regarding evidence for homeopathy on the NHS Evidence website which can be accessed at:

www.evidence.nhs.uk/search.aspx?t=homeopathy

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospital in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* England in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [41552]

Mr Simon Burns: The data requested are shown in the following table:

Count of finished admission episodes in Devon primary care trust (PCT) and England for the latest available 12 months

	Devon PCT	*England*
November 2009 to October 2010	170,103	14,714,309

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes.

2. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Babies

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of the new system for barcoded wrist and ankle bands for babies recently introduced at Kettering general hospital for the purposes of ascertaining its suitability for wider application across the NHS. [44576]

Anne Milton: The system introduced at the Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is an excellent example of the benefits achievable through use of barcode technology in the national health service. The Department encourages the adoption of this and other auto-identity and data capture technologies across the NHS, based on the use of recognised barcode information standards which have been ratified by the NHS Information Standards Board.

Medical Certificates: Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Probation Service spent on doctors' notes for offenders in connection with non-attendance for part of community sentences in each of the last three years. [44192]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected by the Department.

Doctors' notes, including notes explaining absence from part of community sentences for medical reasons, are not provided by the national health service. Doctors provide notes privately and may charge a fee for signing any note or letter where a review of a patient's medical records is required.

Mental Illness: Advertising

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made on the effects of advertising on *(a)* adult and *(b)* child mental health. [44208]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made. However, Shift, the Department's programme to reduce the stigma and discrimination directed towards people with mental health problems was extended in order to work alongside Time to Change, the £18 million charity sector-led anti-stigma and well-being social marketing campaign. Shift's work complements that of Time to Change by focusing on two key audiences, one of which is the media.

The work with the media is aimed at improving media coverage of mental health and in particular challenging the link made between severe mental illness and violence.

Guidance on best practice for reporting mental health has been distributed to more than 10,000 journalists, which focuses on covering violence and suicide.

Training on reporting mental illness and suicide is being delivered to postgraduate students at journalism training colleges and the Shift Speakers Bureau, a bank of people willing to talk about their real life experiences of mental illness, has become an essential resource for journalists and a way of ensuring that people's voices are heard.

Midwives: Training

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the requirement for *(a)* training and *(b)* employment of midwives in the next five years. [44022]

Anne Milton: The Government recognise that the vast majority of our midwives provide excellent care. However, ongoing education and training is vital to keeping standards high. That is why we are working closely with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the independent body with regulatory responsibility for midwifery educational standards, to make sure that training programmes reflect the best possible learning outcomes.

The Government are committed to training the numbers of midwives needed, and are considering ways of helping to improve midwife recruitment and retention.

The final report "Midwifery 2020: delivering expectations" (September 2010) underpins the vision of how midwives can lead and deliver care in a changing health care environment in line with the proposals in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and the supporting consultation document, "Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce".

As part of the 2011-12 Operating Planning process, the Department is collecting projections on the midwifery workforce up to March 2015 from strategic health authorities. This information will be published in due course.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places for student midwives there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in academic year 2010-11. [44442]

Anne Milton: There were 5,644 midwifery students in training in June 2010, the latest figures we have available.

NHS midwifery training places commissioned since 2005-06

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Degree	891	983	1,307	1,944	1,977	1,967
Diploma	397	540	412	0	0	0

NHS midwifery training places commissioned since 2005-06

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
18 months	531	467	352	328	505	526
Total	1,819	1,990	2,071	2,272	2,482	2,493

NHS midwifery training places commissioned, 2008 and 2009 by strategic health authority

	2008			*2009*		
	Degree	*18-month diploma*	*Total*	*Degree*	*18-month diploma*	*Total*
North East	66	20	86	67	25	92
North West	218	39	257	228	35	263
Yorks and Humber	176	35	211	242	27	269
East Midlands	142	15	157	146	33	179
West Midlands	226	69	295	277	53	330
East of England	228	48	276	235	54	289
London	454	0	454	335	176	511
South East Coast	144	59	203	125	53	178
South Central	142	31	173	178	25	203
South West	148	12	160	144	24	168

Source:
Quarterly Monitoring Returns.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to improve outcomes for those with musculoskeletal problems. [43723]

Paul Burstow: The first "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12", published 20 December 2010, sets out the national outcome goals that will be used to hold the proposed NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering improved outcomes. Although, there is not a specific outcome indicator for musculoskeletal disorders in the NHS Outcomes Framework, we would expect progress to be captured under Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions and Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury.

However, the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), will not be setting out how these outcomes should be delivered, it will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to determine how best to deliver improvements by working with general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia.

The NHS Commissioning Board will have various tools and levers at its disposal to help deliver improved outcomes, which include the library of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standards; the Commissioning Outcomes Framework, which the NHS Commissioning Board will use to hold GP commissioning consortia to account; and other payment mechanisms between the NHS Commissioning Board, commissioners and providers.

The tools and levers available to the NHS Commissioning Board are described more fully in both "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12", and "Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps", which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123138.pdf

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122661

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Medical Treatments

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of expenditure on treatment of problems of the musculoskeletal system in the next three years. [44327]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no estimate of expenditure on problems of the musculoskeletal system in the next three years. Decisions on such expenditure are made at a local level, by primary care trusts in 2011-12 and, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament, by general practitioner consortia from 2012-13.

NHS

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the external advice received by Ministers in his Department prior to 5 May 2010 on *(a)* the 2010-11 operating framework—maximum price tariff, published on 16 December 2009, *(b)* the achievement of efficiency savings and *(c)* the effects on quality of competition in the NHS. [44749]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no plans to publish external advice received by Ministers in the previous Administration in relation to these issues.

It is an established convention that Ministers of a current Administration may not generally see documents of a former Administration of a different political party.

NHS: Dairy Products

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the volume of milk purchased by the NHS in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how much the NHS spent on *(a)* milk and *(b)* other dairy products in that period. [44731]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on expenditure on these goods by the national health service is held by NHS Supply Chain (NHS SC), the national supplies and distribution organisation established by the Department in 2006. The figures are that the NHS spent £9.5 million on purchasing milk in 2009-10 through NHS SC, and £0.5 million on purchasing other dairy products for the same period. NHS SC estimate that this forms approximately 50% of the market share for the NHS as a whole. NHS SC does not hold information on the actual volume of these products sold by their suppliers.

Purchases of these products other than through NHS SC will be done at individual NHS trust level or through local collaborative procurement hubs. Information on expenditure by these routes is not held centrally.

NHS: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of public expenditure on health as a proportion of *(a)* GDP and *(b)* total public expenditure in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [44266]

Mr Simon Burns: The relevant statistics are in the following table. The table has been constructed using HM Treasury statistical information sources.

United Kingdom health spending as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)

		UK health public spending (£ billion)	*Public health spending as a percentage of GDP*	*Public health spending as a percentage of total managed expenditure*
Accruals				
1998-99	outturn	46.9	5.3	14.2
1999-2000	outturn	49.4	5.2	14.4
2000-01	outturn	54.2	5.5	14.9
2001-02	outturn	59.8	5.8	15.4
2002-03	outturn	66.2	6.1	15.7
2003-04	outturn	74.9	6.5	16.4
2004-05	outturn	82.9	6.8	16.8
2005-06	outturn	89.6	7.0	17.1
2006-07	outturn	94.5	7.0	17.2
2007-08	outturn	102.2	7.2	17.5
2008-09	outturn	110.0	7.7	17.4

Source:
Tables 4.1/4.2 HM Treasury PESA 2010

NHS: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future funding of the nhs.net service from 2013. [43772]

Mr Simon Burns: The current contract for provision of the secure NHSmail email and directory service for the national health service in England and Scotland expires in 2013. Expenditure plans for the service in future years have yet to be finalised.

NHS: Redundancy

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary redundancies in NHS non-clinical staff which will occur in (i) the London borough of Newham, (ii) West Ham constituency and (iii) London in the next 12 months. [43784]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to contact the London strategic health authority directly for estimated figures.

Nutrition

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated average calorific intake of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults was in each of the last 10 years. [44379]

Anne Milton: Average daily calorie (energy) intakes for adults and children are available from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey. To date, these data have not been collected annually. However, information is available for calorific intake for 2008-09 for adults and children, in 2000-01 for adults and in 1997 for children. This survey is currently funded as a rolling programme.

Average daily energy intake (kcal) is provided in the table.

	Energy intake (kcal/day)		
Age (years)	*2008-09*	*2000-01*	*1997*
4-10	1,558	—	1,600
11-18	1,917	—	1,890
19-64	1,949	1,934	—

Patients: Foreigners

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many foreign patients treated in hospitals who were liable for the cost of their treatment did not pay for treatment in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; [43773]

(2) how much his Department was owed in payments for treatment provided to foreign nationals in hospitals in England in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [43774]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the total audited losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years 2007-08 to 2009-10, for England. As well as written-off debt for foreign nationals who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, these data include written-off debt for UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident here. Further, it does not include monies owed that hospitals are still in the process of recovering.

	Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients (£)
2007-08	6,468,751
2008-09	5,204,856
2009-10	6,967,780

Note:
We do not collect data from national health service foundation trusts so figures exclude these sites.
Source:
NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

The Department does not hold data on the number of foreign nationals treated.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many personnel his Department has appointed to deal with combat stress; what research studies on this issue are being undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [44713]

Mr Simon Burns: A team of three people work full time on all military health and veterans' health issues within the Department. These include those which relate to the effect combat can have on the mental health of those who have served in the armed forces. Responsibility for the health and wellbeing of those currently serving lies with the Ministry of Defence. The Department is currently working closely with the 10 strategic health authorities to deliver the improvements to veterans' mental health services suggested in Dr. Andrew Murrison's report, "Fighting Fit".

On research, the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) is funding Professor Simon Wessely as a Senior Investigator. Professor Wessely is Director of the King's Centre for Military Health Research Unit at King's College London. For the last 10 years, his research has shifted towards various aspects of military health including the physical and psychological consequences of military service.

Prescription Drugs: Royal College of General Practitioners

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has consulted the Royal College of General Practitioners as part of its review of addiction to prescribed medicine. [43713]

Anne Milton: The Department has commissioned two reports to investigate addiction to medicines.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) has been asked to collect evidence through:

an analysis of National Drug Treatment Monitoring System and pharmacy data to investigate prevalence and trends;

structured interviews with targeted primary care trusts and local drug partnerships to better understand the governance of prescribing and the commissioning and provision of services to treat addiction to prescription and over the counter medicines; and

surveys and structured interviews with dedicated and specialist providers to determine what is being provided and how local services are configured.

The National Addiction Centre (NAC) is conducting a literature review to bring together the published evidence on the health effects of use of these drugs and the treatment and management interventions for addiction to them.

The NTA and NAC reports will be published in the next couple of months. Following publication, we will be engaging widely with interested parties, including the Royal College of General Practitioners, to determine the future direction of policy and service planning.

Social Services: Elderly

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department is making on a voluntary scheme for payments towards the cost of social care for the elderly. [44318]

Paul Burstow: In July 2010, the Government established the independent Commission on Funding of Care and Support to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system or systems for care and support for all adults in England, both in the home and other settings.

The Commission is due to report by July this year. More information about its work can be found online at:

www.dilnotcommission.dh.gov.uk

The Government will publish a White Paper on social care by the end of 2011.

Sodium Valproate

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to review the safety of sodium valproate. [44744]

Mr Simon Burns: The safety, efficacy and quality of all medicines is thoroughly evaluated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency at the time of licensing and their safety is monitored continuously while they are on the market.

Sodium valproate is an effective treatment for epilepsy. Important known risks of sodium valproate include effects on the pancreas, liver disorders and the risk of birth defects in babies born to women who take sodium valproate during pregnancy.

The product information for prescribers (the Summary of Product Characteristics) and the Patient Information Leaflet for sodium valproate contain detailed information about its known adverse effects. As new data emerge the product information is updated to reflect the recognised adverse effects. Warnings about the known side effects of sodium valproate are also reflected in the British National Formulary and in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the treatment of epilepsy in adults and children.

Standing Commission on Carers

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the Standing Commission on Carers; and if he will make a statement. [44720]

Paul Burstow: The Standing Commission on Carers made a significant contribution to the development of "Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the

Carers Strategy" which we published in November 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The Commission will continue to play a valuable role in advising Ministers across Government on the strategic opportunities for improving outcomes for carers, drawing upon its members' extensive networks and experience. I plan to attend the next meeting of the Standing Commission on 16 March, to discuss its work programme for the year ahead. Once agreed the work programme will be placed on the Commission's webpage.

Streptococcus: Screening

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* clinical and *(b)* cost effectiveness of introducing screening for group B streptococcus for all pregnant women; and what steps he plans to take to raise awareness among (i) pregnant women and (ii) healthcare professionals of group B streptococcus. [44121]

Anne Milton: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy. The UK NSC reviewed the policy for screening for group B streptococcus (GBS) carriage in pregnancy in 2009. The review was the subject of a broad consultation and concluded that the evidence did not support the introduction of screening.

The UK NSC had previously commissioned a clinical and cost-effectiveness study comparing different approaches to GBS. The health technology assessment took this work forward on behalf of the UK NSC and published the results in 2007. The main conclusion was that there was considerable uncertainty on the most effective approach to GBS. The study results were considered by the UK NSC during the screening policy review in 2009. The UK NSC will review its policy position again on GBS carriage in pregnancy screening in 2012 or earlier if any significant new peer reviewed evidence emerges.

Information for women on GBS is contained in "The Pregnancy Book", a guide to a healthy pregnancy, labour and childbirth, and life with a new baby, which is given to all pregnant women. Information is also available on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/chq/pages/2037.aspx?categoryid=54&subcategoryid=137

Women who are concerned about GBS infection are advised to talk to their doctor or midwife.

Current guidance on the prevention of early-onset neonatal GBS disease is provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The guideline advises health care professionals on the management of high risk pregnancies and is currently being reviewed and updated. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are currently developing guidance on the management of early onset infections including GBS.

Vitamin D

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition to publish its advice on the appropriate levels of vitamin D to be used in supplementation. [44421]

Anne Milton: United Kingdom Government policy on nutrition issues is informed by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN).

SACN agreed to review the dietary reference intakes for vitamin D at its meeting on 15 October 2010. It is envisaged that the review will take approximately three years to complete.

Walking

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of walking to mental and physical health. [44377]

Paul Burstow: The benefits of physical activity are outlined in the Public Health White Paper and associated documents.

The recently published mental health strategy "No Health Without Mental Health" and associated documents also highlight the benefits of physical activity in improving outcomes for mental health and well-being.

There are other sources of information that have been produced which provide an evidence base that includes the health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity, for example the Department's "Confident Communities, Brighter Futures—a Framework for Wellbeing" sets out the argument and evidence base for prioritising well-being.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 8 March 2011

WALES

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45098]

Mr David Jones: In January and February 2011 100% of invoices paid by the Wales Office were paid within 10 days.

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what expenditure her Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43764]

Mr David Jones: In the last three years the Wales Office has only made one payment to external auditors. In the financial year 2009-10 a payment of £16,500 was made for services provided by the National Audit Office.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for her Department that *(a)* was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and *(b)* complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 to date. [44952]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no in-house catering facilities and does not source food.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in her Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44360]

Mr David Jones: None.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which hon. Members of each political party were invited to the Secretary of State's St David's day reception at Gwydyr house on 1 March 2011. [45168]

Mrs Gillan: The Wales Office's traditional St David's day reception has long been used to celebrate our national day and to bring together representatives of Welsh society to build relationships that will potentially bring great benefits to Wales. Representatives of key employers and the big society were invited, along with Members of Parliament and peers of all the main political parties. The estimated cost to the public purse from the event is £780, excluding VAT.

The following hon. Members were invited:

Glyn Davies MP
Brooks Newmark MP
Guto Bebb MP
Alun Cairns MP
Stephen Crabb MP
David Davies MP
Jonathan Evans MP
Simon Hart MP
Roger Williams MP
Mark Williams MP
Jenny Willott MP
Peter Hain MP
Owen Smith MP
Elfyn Llwyd MP
Mark Prisk MP
Vince Cable MP

Electoral Reform Services Ltd

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the monetary value was of contracts her Department placed with Electoral Reform Services Ltd in each year since 2005. [44227]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not placed any contracts with Electoral Reform Services.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on levels of funding for agricultural research and development during the comprehensive spending review period. [43695]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has held no recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer specifically on levels of funding for agricultural research and development during the comprehensive spending review period. However, DEFRA officials continue to work closely with HM Treasury and other Government Departments on Government support for research and development in this and other sectors.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the compulsory set-aside scheme; and if she will make a statement. [43555]

Mr Paice: Compulsory set-aside (the obligation for farmers to take a percentage of agricultural land out of production) was abolished in 2008. The Campaign for the Farmed Environment was launched in 2009 as an alternative to regulation, allowing farmers to voluntarily implement changes in farming practice that will recapture the environmental benefits formerly provided by set-aside land. It is due to run until July 2012.

The campaign is led by the farming industry and is its chance to demonstrate that it can deliver better environmental outcomes for farmland birds, other farm wildlife, soil and water at a local level without the need for additional regulation. I want the campaign to be a success and do not believe that Government should need to regulate and impose more red tape; if the farming community can achieve the same results through its own actions. But if the farming community cannot step up and achieve these results voluntarily, the Government will have to consider a compulsory approach to deliver the same level of environmental benefits.

Fishing Catches: EU Action

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take on fish discards and by-catch following the EU high level meeting of 1 March 2011 on fisheries; and if she will make a statement. [44718]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* I have made clear that tackling discards must be a priority for common fisheries policy (CFP) reform, and I am delighted that at the high level meeting on discards the EU Commission, and other members states, were able to agree on this too. At the event, the UK, Germany, France and Denmark also took the step of signing a declaration calling for serious reform of the CFP, making the reduction of discards a high priority, while securing improved management of fish stocks and the prosperity of our fishing industry.

The UK is committed to tackling discards, and will use the momentum created by the event and the declaration to continue to influence and shape reform. In doing so we will use the crucial evidence gathered from the UK's discard reduction work to make sure that the right solutions are taken forward.

The UK is clear, however, that it will not just wait for the reform of common fisheries policy; discard reductions must be delivered now. We have already made excellent progress with initiatives such as Project 50%, which saw discards in the south-west sole fishery reduced by 52%. In 2011, we are expanding our catch quota scheme to more vessels and species, as well as working to encourage consumption of under-utilised species that are presently discarded.

Government Departments: Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the ministerial governance arrangements to oversee the Government's performance on sustainable development. [43306]

Mr Paice: On 28 February 2011, Government published their vision for mainstreaming sustainable development which consists of providing ministerial leadership and oversight, leading by example, embedding sustainable development into policy, and transparent and independent scrutiny. It can be viewed online at:

http://sd.defra.gov.uk/documents/mainstreaming-sustainable-development.pdf

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will sit on the key domestic policy Cabinet committees, including the Economic Affairs Committee, to promote the Government's commitment to sustainability across policy making.

We will measure and report our progress through a new set of indicators on sustainable development, building on past experience of sustainable development and well-being measures and linking with developing national and international initiatives, including plans announced in November 2010 to measure the nation's well-being.

The Environmental Audit Committee will play a role in holding the Government to account with a renewed commitment to scrutinise the appraisal of the Government's policies and our new overall approach.

A ministerial steering group will oversee delivery of the new commitments for greening Government's operations and procurement. All Departments will need to submit plans for delivering these commitments to the Cabinet Office, which will co-ordinate performance management of pan-government delivery and publish regular updates on progress to ensure we can be held to account by the public.

Noise: Nuisance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on noise nuisance issues. [43791]

Richard Benyon: A number of representations have been received recently regarding noise nuisance. Specifically, in December and January DEFRA received 19 and 12 letters respectively from members of the public and external organisations on noise nuisance with subject matters ranging from noise from gas guns to low frequency "hum". A small number of parliamentary questions on this issue have also been received.

Rural Payments Agency: Operating Costs

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which uses the Rural Payments Agency has put the funding allocated to it by her Department to assist with running costs in 2010-11. [43462]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* The Rural Payments Agency is a major delivery body for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), providing a range of services in support of DEFRA's objectives of encouraging a thriving farming and food sector and strong rural communities. The Agency manages a wide range of common agricultural policy (CAP) schemes including the single payment scheme, internal market schemes covering dairy products, crops, fruits and vegetables, external trade measures covering export refunds, import and export licenses and milk quotas. The agency also carries out a wide range of inspections on farms and at abattoirs, factories, ports, airports and markets to ensure CAP scheme rules are met and that claims for payment are valid. The agency is also responsible for monitoring cattle movements throughout the UK.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of her Department's EU dairy fund has been paid out *(a)* by the Rural Payments Agency and *(b)* through each of the devolved Administrations to date. [43463]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) paid out £26,563,99.65 to 15,689 eligible dairy producers across the United Kingdom from the EU dairy fund. All eligible producers have been paid.

In agreement with the devolved Administrations, RPA made all the payments. £2,571,941.28 was paid to producers in Scotland, £2,980,000.97 to producers in Wales and £3,686,613.89 to producers in Northern Ireland.

Towards a Green Economy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's policy on the recommendations of the UN Environment Programme report, "Towards a Green Economy". [43693]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers have had no discussions to date with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the recommendations issued last week.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Military Bases

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next intends to visit the RAF base at *(a)* Lossiemouth, *(b)* Kinloss and *(c)* Leuchars. [44127]

Dr Fox: I intend to visit the region shortly but no specific date or programme has yet been agreed.

Air Force: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Air Force personnel not deployed on operations, recently returned from operations and preparing to deploy on operations are in the pool of personnel considered for the redundancies announced on 1 March 2011; [44423]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of Royal Air Force personnel who will volunteer for redundancy as part of the programme of reductions announced on 1 March 2011. [44426]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is not available at this time.

Some 4,350 service personnel will be eligible for redundancy in tranche one of the RAF redundancy programme. Personnel within this group who are engaged in combat operations for which they are in receipt of operational allowance, within six months of deploying on those operations, or recovering from operations on the day the redundancy notices are issued, will not be considered for redundancy unless they have applied for voluntary redundancy. The sift to remove the individuals who fall into these categories will not be completed until mid-August.

No estimate has been made of the number of RAF personnel who will volunteer for redundancy as part of the RAF redundancy programme as this will depend on the personal choices made by the individuals concerned.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect on military operations in Afghanistan of the redundancies from the armed forces announced on 1 March 2011. [44424]

Nick Harvey: The reduction in the size of the armed forces was first announced following the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the Prime Minister has made it clear that there is no cut whatsoever in the support for our forces in Afghanistan.

Furthermore, when announcing the need for redundancies, the Secretary of State for Defence made it clear that no one who is preparing to deploy, deployed and in receipt of operational allowance or who has recently returned from an operational deployment will be made redundant unless they have volunteered,

Afghanistan remains our top foreign policy priority and the Ministry of Defence's main effort and we will continue to ensure that the campaign is properly resourced.

Blue Force

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance was provided by his Department to (i) Blue Force Property and (ii) Blue Force Services in each of the last five years. [41684]

Mr Robathan: We have not provided any financial assistance to any Blue Force organisation. Office accommodation at Colchester and access to a military telephone network were provided in the past and charges levied at the appropriate rates.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department is owed by *(a)* Blue Force Property and *(b)* Blue Force Services. [41685]

Mr Robathan: Nothing. All moneys for rental of office accommodation have been paid.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Boeing full hazard analysis of the flying controls and associated systems that was carried out with reference to paragraph 9 of the Ministry of Defence Military Aircraft Accident Summary 2/89-Aircraft Accident to Royal Air Force Chinook HC1 ZA721. [38549]

Nick Harvey: I will write to the hon. Member. Time is required to retrieve information on the 1987 accident from archive.

Substantive answer from Nick Harvey to James Gray:

I undertook to write to you in response to the answer I gave to your written parliamentary question on 9 February 2011 (Official Report, column 252W) regarding the Boeing full hazard analysis.

We are still waiting for Boeing to provide the information you requested. You may however wish to be aware that some of the information may be covered by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) which may limit its release. This will not be fully clear until the information is received and assessed.

Critical Capabilities Pool

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* remit of the Critical Capabilities Pool is. [43968]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

The purpose of the Critical Capabilities Pool is to fund some of the key programmes and capabilities required to reduce proliferation-related risks to national security and to improve co-ordination of those resources across the Government's counter-proliferation community. The Critical Capabilities Pool includes several programmatic elements and also contains resources for security-related science and technology work in the radiological and nuclear, and chemical and biological fields.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of the Critical Capabilities Pool introduced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and which departments have contributed to it. [43969]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

Work to finalise the exact level of resources included within the Critical Capabilities Pool is still ongoing. I will write to inform you of the final figure once it is available. The following Departments are contributing funding: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Energy and Climate Change, HM Treasury, the Ministry of Defence and the Home Department.

European Fighter Aircraft

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 515W, on defence: procurement, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the project history maintained in respect of the Typhoon project. [45175]

Peter Luff: It is my intention to place a copy of the Typhoon project history in the Library of the House before the Easter recess.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the information his Department holds on the increase in costs *(a)* of the Eurofighter typhoon project and *(b)* for each such aircraft delivered since 1988; and if he will make a statement. [44780]

Peter Luff: Information about the increase in cost of Typhoon is published within the Major Projects Report 2010, HC 489-11 dated 15 October 2010. Typhoon has been contracted for in three tranches. Increase in cost is not recorded on a per aircraft basis.

Ex-servicemen: Social Security Benefits

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to ensure the take-up of benefits by former service personnel. [38981]

Mr Robathan: All former service personnel who are in need can access the Veterans Welfare Service who have visibility of the Department of Work and Pensions' database and can advise on obtaining any further benefits. Welfare managers are able to assist in the application process if potential claimants are unable to do so.

Military Aircraft

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which types of Royal Air Force aircraft are authorised to carry special nuclear materials over UK territory; and which section in his Department is responsible for granting such authority; [44632]

(2) which types of Royal Air Force aircraft are authorised to carry special nuclear materials over US territory by the US Administration; and from which department of the US Administration he received such authority. [44633]

Nick Harvey: The following aircraft can carry special nuclear materials (SNM): C17, VC10, Tristar and C130.

Individual aircraft do not require a specific authorisation to carry SNM, but, as with all requests for the use of air transport, aircraft are allocated according to the size and nature of the load and in response to a bid from the sponsor.

The Transport Operation Order details the itinerary, role, fit of the aircraft, load, handling requirements and specific arrangements for that task. As part of this process, diplomatic clearances are arranged in conjunction with those nations detailed in the itinerary, or being overflown. The internal clearance process for each nation to approve the flight itinerary is a matter for them.

RAF Valley

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian staff are located at RAF Valley; and in what capacity. [44887]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 813W.

Sea Rescue

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* RAF and *(b)* Royal Navy pilots are assigned to search and rescue duties, excluding those assigned for training purposes; and from which bases such pilots operate; [44885]

(2) which helicopters are deployed to carry out search and rescue tasks in the UK; and from which bases such helicopters operate. [44886]

Nick Harvey: The RAF provides search and rescue (SAR) capability from six UK bases using the Sea King Mk3/3a helicopters: RAF Valley, Wattisham airfield, Defence School of Transport (DST) Leconfield, RAF Lossiemouth, RAF Boulmer and Royal Marines Base (RMB) Chivenor. The Royal Navy provides SAR cover from Gannet SAR Flight (Glasgow Prestwick International airport) and Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose using the Sea King HU Mk5 helicopter. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency provides SAR capability from bases at Stornoway, Sumburgh, Portland and Lee-on-Solent, using AgustaWestland AW139 and Sikorsky S92 helicopters.

The number of RAF and Royal Navy pilots assigned to SAR duties and the bases from which they operate are shown in the following table.

Service	*Base*	*Number of pilots*
RAF	UK	[1]71
Royal Navy	UK	20

[1] RAF pilots are also stationed in Cyprus and on detachment to the Falkland Islands.

Submarines and Warships

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many submarines are currently available for operations; [44689]

(2) what the *(a)* name and *(b)* type is of each (i) destroyer and (ii) frigate in service with the Royal Navy and available for operations. [44739]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The surface ships in service with the Royal Navy currently available for operations are as follows:

Frigates

Type 22:

- HMS Campbeltown
- HMS Cornwall
- HMS Cumberland

Destroyers

Type 23:

- HMS St Albans
- HMS Westminster
- HMS Richmond
- HMS Iron Duke
- HMS Montrose
- HMS Monmouth
- HMS Sutherland
- HMS Somerset
- HMS Portland

Type 42:

- HMS Gloucester
- HMS Liverpool
- HMS York

Type 45:

- HMS Daring.

Two types of submarines make up the Royal Navy Submarine Service. There are six fleet submarines, of which four are operational. There are four ballistic missile submarines, of which three are operational. HMS Astute has joined the Royal Navy's submarine fleet, but is not yet fully operational, so is not included in these figures.

While the units identified will be at various states of readiness while engaging in various forms of activity such as sea trials, training, ammunitioning, storing etc., they remain in fleet time and are therefore considered operational.

Those units not currently part of the operational schedule are undergoing deep maintenance.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to enable airports to determine their own security procedures for air crew. [42061]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 773W, given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Stephen Lloyd).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what savings he expects to accrue to his Department from its internal restructuring programme over the lifetime of the programme. [42313]

Mr Philip Hammond: The central Department and its agencies will deliver our spending review commitment to reduce our administration costs by 33% in real terms by 2014-15 which will represent a cumulative cost saving of around £270 million over the period to and including 2014-15.

Of this, approximately £180 million is expected to be delivered from the central Department.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent meetings he has had with the Motor Insurers' Bureau on the number of uninsured drivers. [43505]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has not had any meetings with the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB). Motor insurance is one of my responsibilities. I have met with the MIB and have visited their headquarters in Milton Keynes.

Driving Standards Agency

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the work carried out by the Driving Standards Agency was undertaken by the offices in *(a)* Newcastle, *(b)* Nottingham and *(c)* Cardiff in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [43124]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) cannot accurately proportion the total of work carried out between its administrative offices in Newcastle, Nottingham and Cardiff. Some of the functions at each site are different and not comparable.

The number of staff based in each office at 1 January 2011 was:

Newcastle—170 to 180
Nottingham—350 to 360
Cardiff—86 (plus one member of staff on career break)

Figures for Newcastle and Nottingham are approximations owing to the fact that some staff are based between the two offices.

Heathrow Airtrack

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Heathrow Airtrack; and what timetable he has set for its implementation. [43280]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The Heathrow Airtrack project is being promoted by Heathrow Airport Ltd—a subsidiary of BAA. Accordingly, plans for the future of the project and timescales for implementation are a matter for BAA.

Southeastern Trains: Passengers

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rate of cancellation of passenger rail services operated by the Southeastern franchise was in each of the last five reporting periods. [43456]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The information requested is given in the following table:

Southeastern cancellations

Reporting period	*Percentage cancelled*
August/September 2010	0.9
September/October 2010	1.6
October/November 2010	0.6
November/December 2010	2.3
December/January 2011	2.6

Note:
Period 10 2010-11 (12 December 2010 to 9 January 2011) is the latest data available. Rail industry periods are four weeks in length.

Pedestrian Crossings

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the relative safety records of *(a)* pelican, *(b)* puffin, *(c)* toucan and *(d)* other forms of signal-controlled pedestrian crossings. [43668]

Norman Baker: A recent study, conducted by the Transport Research Laboratory on a limited number of sites, indicated that personal injury accident frequencies at puffin crossings could be some 17% lower than at pelican crossings. We intend to publish the results of the study later this year. No other comparative studies have been carried out in recent years.

Railways: Construction

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the annual cost to the public purse of maintenance of the High Speed 2 route after completion. [43441]

Mr Philip Hammond: Estimates of the costs of operating and maintaining both the proposed Y high speed rail network, and the proposed initial London-West Midlands HS2 line, are included in the "Economic Case for HS2" which is available on the consultation website:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies are involved in the *(a)* construction and *(b)* operation of High Speed 2; and with which companies he has had discussions on High Speed 2. [43589]

Mr Philip Hammond: No companies are, at this stage, involved in the construction or operation of HS2. I have had discussions with large numbers of companies from all sectors, as well as business representative organisations, about HS2.

Roads: Safety

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the merits of setting targets for the reduction of child road deaths and serious injuries in the forthcoming road safety strategic framework. [43288]

Mike Penning: The UK already has some of the safest roads in the world, but the coalition is considering how to make them even safer for all road users. The new strategic framework for road safety will set out the Government's vision for road safety, national measures, and how we will work with others to achieve this. We have been discussing this with stakeholders and we intend to publish in the near future.

Southeastern Trains

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new carriages, excluding carriages for services on High Speed 1, have been brought into service on the Integrated Kent Franchise in each year since the franchise was awarded to Southeastern. [38288]

Mrs Villiers: There have been no additional carriages introduced in any year under the current Integrated Kent Franchise, other than those introduced to deliver the high speed services. However, since March 2009, some Southeastern services have been operated using First Capital Connect rolling stock, which enabled Southeastern to redeploy up to 48 vehicles to lengthen other trains.

Prior to the start of the Integrated Kent Franchise in April 2006, more than £600 million was invested in new rolling stock in Kent (57 four-car class 375 and 36 five-car class 376 Electrostar trains).

Taxis: Road Traffic Offences

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the owners of private hire vehicles are able to transfer liability for parking control notices (PCNs) to the driver at the time of offence but are not able to do so in respect of PCNs issued for bus lane violation. [41565]

Norman Baker: Regulations made by the Government for parking enforcement in England (including London) under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and for bus lanes enforcement in England outside London under the Transport Act 2000, enable the keeper of a vehicle that was, at the material time, hired from a vehicle hire company under a hiring agreement, to pass responsibility for the payment of any penalty charge notice (PCN) incurred to the hirer.

The legislation that was sponsored by London local authorities to enable enforcement of bus lanes in London—the London Local Authorities Act 1996—does not provide an equivalent power to the vehicle keeper. The Mayor of

London, along with the London local authorities, has policy responsibility for this locally-sponsored legislation. I have drawn this exchange to the attention of the Mayor.

Transport: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what capital allocations he expects to make in respect of each local authority scheme in the supported group in each of the next four years; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the cost of each such scheme expected to be met by central Government contributions; [24051]

(2) what criteria he plans to use to determine which local authority major schemes from the development group will be funded by central Government; [24052]

(3) what mechanisms will be in place for local residents to contribute to the process by which local authority major schemes in the *(a)* supported, *(b)* development and *(c)* pre-qualification group are (i) revised and (ii) assessed; [24053]

(4) what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the monetary value of (i) central Government, (ii) local authority, (iii) private finance initiative and (iv) developer contributions and *(b)* total scheme construction cost in respect of each major scheme in the (A) supported, (B) development and (C) pre-qualification groups. [24054]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 12 November 2011]:* The agreed Department for Transport contribution to the supported pool schemes, following the announcement made on 4 February 2011, is shown in the following table along with the expected allocation of spend over each of the next four years, the total cost of each scheme, and the proportion of this to be provided by Department for Transport.

	DFT contribution (£ million)						
Scheme	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*Total*	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Proportion of funding from DFT (%)*
Thornton to Switch Island Link (Sefton)	—	7.0	7.5	—	14.5	18.6	78
Taunton Northern Inner Distributor Road	—	8.0	6.1	1.0	15.2	21.7	70
Heysham to M6 Link Road	—	27.4	45.9	37.1	110.9	123.3	90
Leeds Station Southern Access	—	1.9	10.5	—	12.4	14.4	86
East of Exeter	8.8	1.6	—	—	10.4	14.4	72
A57 M1 to Todwick Crossroads (Rotherham)	—	8.3	3.5	—	11.8	14.7	80
Mansfield Public Transport Interchange	0.7	5.8	0.7	—	7.2	8.9	81
Ipswich Fit for the 21st Century	—	9.3	8.9	0.1	18.3	21.5	85
Midland Metro	—	26.5	48.9	0.0	75.4	129.2	58

The expected spend on the Heysham to M6 Link Road scheme also includes £0.5 million after 2014-15.

The remaining scheme in the supported pool, Mersey Gateway Bridge, is not included in this table as the funding package for the scheme, including toll revenues and private finance is being reviewed with the promoter. No other scheme in the supported or development pool is currently proposed to be taken forward under the private finance initiative.

The criteria to be used in the prioritisation process for schemes in the development pool will be made on a basis that is consistent with Government's proposals to reform the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise. We will refine the precise methodology to be used but is likely to include the following criteria, as stated in the document "Investment on Local Major Transport Schemes: Update":

Value for money;

The proportion of overall funding coming from non-Department for Transport sources;

Deliverability;

Strategic importance;

A consideration of modal and regional balance across the programme.

We have published the Expressions of Interest already received from the local authority promoters and we welcome comments from any interested parties including local residents. We will also publish the Best and Final Funding Bids once they are received on 9 September and will similarly invite comments on those. The local authority promoters also have a responsibility to consult residents and stakeholders when developing individual scheme proposals at appropriate stages. The public also have an opportunity to make representations whenever planning permission, scheme orders or compulsory purchase orders are applied for.

The best estimates of the total construction cost and the central Government, local authority, and third party contributions in respect of each major scheme in the development pool, including those promoted from the pre-qualification pool, are as set out in the Expressions of Interest received from the local authority promoters in December 2010 and January 2011. These are available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/major/transportschemesupdate/

The Department is challenging local authorities to submit revised bids for development pool schemes by September 2011 that further reduce the call on central Government funds.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General in respect of which offences cases are being returned by the Crown Prosecution Service to the police for charging as part of revised charging arrangements being rolled-out for completion by June 2011. [44615]

The Attorney-General: The Director's Guidance on Charging is issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) under section 37A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. It sets out the arrangements for the joint working of police officers and prosecutors during the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases. The 4th edition (revised arrangements) of the guidance was issued on 21 January 2011 and is being implemented on a rolling basis which is expected to be completed by June 2011.

Under the revised arrangements the following offences are being returned to the police to charge:

Summary only offences, irrespective of plea;

Criminal damage to property valued at less than £5,000 where a not guilty plea is anticipated;

Handling stolen goods where a guilty plea is anticipated and the case is suitable for disposal in a magistrates court;

All Fraud Act 2006 where a guilty plea is anticipated and the case is suitable for disposal in a magistrates court;

Dangerous driving where a guilty plea is anticipated and the case is suitable for disposal in a magistrates court;

Aggravated TWOC where the case is suitable for disposal in a magistrates court;

Driving while disqualified and the case is suitable for disposal in a magistrates court.

Offences involving domestic violence and hate crime are excluded, as well as any motoring offences involving a fatality, terrorism offences and any cases requiring the consent of the Attorney-General or the DPP.

Public Expenditure

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 805W on public expenditure, by how much the Crown Prosecution Service plans to reduce expenditure on *(a)* staff, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* IT, *(d)* prosecution and *(e)* general administrative costs in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [44825]

The Attorney-General: The following table shows by how much the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) intends to reduce its expenditure in each of the main expenditure areas in each year of the comprehensive spending review period.

CPS cumulative savings over SR10

				£ million
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Staff	-15.5	-36.5	-57.5	-74.1
Accommodation	-2.3	-3.6	-3.6	-4.0
IT	-2.0	-6.7	-11.0	-11.0
Prosecution	-6.7	-6.5	-6.4	-21.4
General administrative costs	-1.4	-3.0	-4.5	-10.0

The Department's expenditure reduction plans are kept under continuous review and the value of individual components may change over time.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on first-class travel for its staff and directors in 2009-10. [44326]

Mr Vaizey: The information requested was not recorded centrally by Arts Council England (ACE) prior to January 2010. Staff booked travel with many different suppliers and have no way of reporting the class of individual journeys taken. However, ACE now has a designated travel supplier, who centralises and records all its travel. During the period January 2010 to February 2011, ACE spent £5,493.30 on first-class travel.

The ACE travel policy states that all staff, including directors, will use standard class travel, or the most cost-effective fare. In rare and reasonable circumstances, an executive director may authorise first-class rail travel.

Arts Council England: South Staffordshire

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much money Arts Council England spent in South Staffordshire constituency per head of population in the latest period for which figures are available. [44304]

Mr Vaizey: In the South Staffordshire constituency Arts Council England spend per head this financial year is currently £0.11.

The funding figures used are from the latest period available, 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010, and as such the answer provided does not equate to a complete year of funding.

British Sky Broadcasting: News International

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the proposed takeover of BSkyB by News International. [44548]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 518-19, setting out that I propose to accept undertakings from News Corporation on its proposed merger with BSkyB. I have launched a consultation as to whether the undertakings in lieu offered by News Corporation are sufficient to remedy, mitigate or prevent the public interest concerns in relation to media plurality raised by this merger. As part of that process I have published all relevant documentation on my Department's website:

www.culture.gov.uk

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43759][1]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is audited by the National Audit Office (NAO). The NAO charges notional fees for the audit of central Government Departments and Executive agencies. There is therefore no expenditure for the external audit of the Department's resource accounts and the Royal Parks accounts.

1.*[Official Report, 15 March 2011, Vol. 525, c. 5MC.]*

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has management and control responsibilities for the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF). Both funds are audited by the NAO and charged a hard fee in cash as set out in the following table.

£

Body	*Auditor*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Department For Culture, Media and Sport (NLDF)	National Audit Office	26,500	28,900	24,000
Department For Culture, Media and Sport (OLDF)	National Audit Office	26,500	28,900	24,000

Most of the Department's arm's-length bodies are audited by the NAO and are charged a hard fee in cash. The two bodies audited by private firms are companies as well as being charities, and have not been designated for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

The following table sets out the bodies, their auditors and the fees charged as disclosed in the bodies' annual reports and accounts.

£

Body	*Auditor*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Arts Council England[1]	National Audit Office	68,000	75,000	60,000
Arts Council England Lottery Account	National Audit Office	62,000	71,000	61,000
Big Lottery Fund	National Audit Office	106,000	105,000	110,000
British Library	National Audit Office	53,000	52,000	50,000
British Museum	National Audit Office	59,000	50,000	47,000
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	National Audit Office	28,000	27,000	26,090
English Heritage	National Audit Office	74,000	69,000	61,000
Football Licensing Authority	National Audit Office	8,900	6,900	6,200
Gambling Commission	National Audit Office	39,000	47,000	33,000
Geffrye Museum	National Audit Office	9,000	7,500	6,400
Horniman Museum	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	13,100	13,825	12,450
Horserace Betting Levy Board	National Audit Office	45,000	38,000	35,000
Imperial War Museum	National Audit Office	41,000	36,000	34,000
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	National Audit Office	63,000	93,000	58,000
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	Beever and Struthers	9,500	9,500	11,410
National Gallery	National Audit Office	40,000	38,650	37,165
National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF)[1]	National Audit Office	10,000	9,000	8,000
Heritage Lottery Fund (maintained by NHMF)	National Audit Office	42,000	42,000	36,000
National Lottery Commission	National Audit Office	25,000	24,000	22,000
National Museums Liverpool	National Audit Office	54,000	50,000	45,000
National Maritime Museum	National Audit Office	36,000	35,000	33,000
National Museum of Science and Industry	National Audit Office	92,000	92,000	87,000
National Portrait Gallery	National Audit Office	35,000	32,000	31,000
Natural History Museum	National Audit Office	49,000	51,000	46,000
Olympic Delivery Authority	National Audit Office	238,000	212,000	158,000
Olympic Lottery Distributor	National Audit Office	13,000	13,000	12,000
Public Lending Right Central Fund Account	National Audit Office	18,000	17,500	17,000
Royal Armouries	National Audit Office	36,000	36,000	41,000
Sir John Soane's Museum	National Audit Office	14,000	14,000	8,250
Sport England	National Audit Office	102,000	80,000	76,000
Sport England Lottery Distribution Fund	National Audit Office	55,000	52,000	47,500
Tate	National Audit Office	49,000	42,000	40,000
UKAnti-Doping[2]	National Audit Office	17,000	n/a	n/a
UK Film Council[1]	National Audit Office	33,000	33,000	21,000
UK Film Council Lottery Distribution Fund	National Audit Office	24,000	24,000	20,000
UK Sport[1]	National Audit Office	45,000	45,000	33,000
UK Sport Lottery Distribution Account	National Audit Office	28,000	28,000	26,000
Victoria and Albert Museum	National Audit Office	45,000	45,000	37,000
VisitBritain	National Audit Office	57,000	55,000	52,000
Wallace Collection	National Audit Office	23,000	22,000	22,000

[1] Under the National Lottery etc Act 1993, Arts Council England, CE, NHMF, Sport England, UK Film Council and UK Sport are required to produce separate Lottery Distribution accounts. These are audited separately and shown as separate lines from the parent body's accounts.

[2] UK Anti-Doping has only been in independent operation since 2009-10.

Note:

The Big Lottery Fund is a Lottery body but has its Lottery income consolidated with its other figures.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44357]

John Penrose: As of 1 March 2011, in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport there were two members of staff in the redeployment pool, of which one had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) the (A) agency and (B) non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43961]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has a combined procurement and outsourcing function. During the financial year 2009-10 the cost to the public purse, which includes office space, utilities, IT and salaries, was £223,274.

During the financial year 2009-10 the Royal Parks agency procurement cost was £99,743. It does not have a function which specifically deals with outsourcing.

The Department does not collate this information for its arm's-length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to my hon. Friend the Member for Esher and Walton.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44211]

John Penrose: Nil.

Licensing Laws

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effects on pubs and clubs of the timetable for obtaining a licence for small live music events. [44278]

John Penrose: We are currently considering how to deliver our commitment to cut red tape and encourage the performance of more live music, while ensuring that there is appropriate protection for local communities. A reduction in red tape associated with the licensing of regulated entertainment would clearly benefit pubs and other venues that put on live music events now. This is why we are continuing to have discussions with representatives from the music industry, the Local Government Association and others so that we can find the best possible solution and bring forward proposals.

We have also provided warm support for the Bill proposed by Lord Clement-Jones in this area, albeit with some concerns over details of some of its proposals.

Ofcom

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the policy of Ofcom is on steps to ensure that unlicensed white space spectrum is available for innovative applications. [44035]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* In its Digital Dividend Review statement, published in December 2007, Ofcom stated that it was minded to allow licence exempt access to white space spectrum, providing harmful interference was not caused to licensed users, such as digital terrestrial television and programme making and special events services. Ofcom has recently concluded a consultation on its approach to implementing licence exempt white space access. A summary of responses and next steps will be published during spring 2011.

Responsible Gambling Strategy Board

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with representatives of the gambling industry on the funding of *(a)* the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, *(b)* the Responsible Gambling Fund and *(c)* the Responsibility in Gambling Trust. [44194]

John Penrose: In the course of the usual engagement with our sectors, my officials and I have met with various organisations and individuals, including representatives of the gambling industry, to discuss a wide range of issues.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding the Gambling Commission has provided for the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board in the latest period for which figures are available. [44195]

John Penrose: Under a service level agreement, the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board received £250,000 in 2010-11 from the Gambling Commission in order to provide independent advice on the research, education and treatment elements of the Commission's responsible gambling strategy.

Sports: Special Educational Needs

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding his Department provides for sporting organisations for people with special needs. [44863]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* UK Sport provides funding and support to elite athletes from six different disability groups in the Paralympic movement, including the recently reinstated intellectual disability group.

The figures in the table include data on athlete and programme support for all UK Sport-funded summer and winter Paralympic sports:

	£
2010-11 grants paid[1]	
Summer Paralympics	11,536,190
Winter Paralympics	94,067
Predicted 2011-13 APA and Programme grants	
Summer Paralympic	25,215,316
Intellectual Disability	750,000
Winter Paralympic	281,750

[1] Athlete Personal Award (APA) and Programme—includes current planned amount for March 2011.

UK Sport also provides funding to the following partners:

		£
Partner	*2010-11*	*2011-13*
UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability	40,000	75,000
British Paralympic Performance Services	450,000	900,000

A key strand of Sport England's work is to create more opportunities for those with disabilities to participate in sport.

As part of the Olympic legacy—Places, People, Play—plans are under way for allocating ring-fenced funding of £8 million to support sport participation for disabled people over the next two years. Sport England is also investing £1.54 million per year of Exchequer funding in the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS), to support its strategy to increase participation and opportunities for disabled people.

In addition, Sport England is working closely with EFDS and other national disability sports organisations to agree the most appropriate way to deliver a further investment of £2 million of national lottery funding to help support participation in sport by disabled people.

Sports: Young People

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of recent trends in the level of participation in sport by young people. [43629]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The previous Government's 2009/10 PE and Sport survey showed that 55% of young people were doing three hours of school sport, but also showed huge decline in Years 12 and 13 to 23% and 21% respectively.

Harnessing the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the School Games will give every school and every pupil the opportunity to participate in competitive school sport, inspiring a generation of young people to start a lifetime of sport.

Telecommunications: Sign Language

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that a choice of telecommunications services is available for users of British Sign Language. [44113]

Mr Vaizey: Revisions to the EU Electronic Communications Framework, including the Universal Services Directive, provide for member states to empower national regulatory authorities (Ofcom in the UK) to specify, where appropriate, requirements to ensure that disabled end-users:

(a) have access to electronic communications services equivalent to that enjoyed by the majority of end-users; and

(b) benefit from the choice of undertakings and services available to the majority of end-users.

The revised framework makes clear that responsibility for decisions on equivalence reside with the National Regulatory Authority (NRA)

In order to fully implement these new provisions, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is proposing to make changes to section 51 of the Communications Act 2003 to clarify Ofcom's power to impose a general condition in relation to equivalence. This will be in addition to the existing powers Ofcom have under General Conditions of Entitlement (GC 15) and the Universal Service Order 2003.

In addition DCMS continue to analyse responses to the recent Government public consultation on proposals to implement the revised framework, including the new Article 23a of the USD Directive, detailed above.

At the same time Ofcom is undertaking a review of relay services which support disabled end users in their use of electronic communications. The objective of this review is to assess whether current arrangements for the provision of relay services are adequate in delivering equivalence to voice telephony for hearing- and speech-impaired end-users (including BSL users) and, if they are not, to consider proportionate solutions. The formal public consultation element of this review will launch in the spring.

DCMS's proposed changes to the Communications Act 2003 will enable Ofcom, following the outcome of its review, to mandate the changes it deems appropriate and necessary to ensure that disabled end-users have access to the equivalence and choice required by the revisions to Framework.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision her Department makes for asylum seekers waiting to hear the outcome of their cases; and what the cost of such support was to the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [44323]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency provides support in the form of accommodation and/or subsistence to everyone who claims asylum and who would otherwise be destitute, until they have exhausted their appeal rights. Support is also provided to failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and who face a legitimate barrier to return. This includes a number who are judicially reviewing the decision not to grant asylum.

The total cost of asylum support in 2009-10 was £524 million.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of the refugee charity sector in Scotland to discuss the effects of reductions in funding for the UK Border Agency on the asylum system. [44666]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department currently has no plans to meet with representatives of the refugee charity sector in Scotland in this regard.

The UK Border Agency is committed to continuing to work with voluntary sector partners. However, asylum intake has reduced significantly since grant payments were first put in place. It is only right that funding is reduced accordingly to reflect this. The grant reduction also reflects the fact that the UK Border Agency's budget has been cut as part of the Government's action to reduce the public deficit.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to improve the quality of the initial decision-making stage of asylum applications. [44816]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency continues to invest in quality through a detailed audit process developed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support a continuous improvement in quality. In addition to auditing individual decisions it conducts audits of the quality in specific areas of interest such as potential victims of trafficking, maintaining the best interests of the child, and lesbian, gay and bisexual decisions. The Border Agency provides a wide variety of training, policy, guidance and tools to support high quality decisions on asylum applications. The Asylum Improvement Project, which was established by the Government in summer 2010, is exploring new ways to improve the asylum system which includes detailed work to reduce the number of asylum decisions overturned at appeal.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers were *(a)* granted asylum and *(b)* refused asylum and returned to their home country in each of the last five years. [44433]

Damian Green: Information on the outcome of asylum applications is available in Main Table 2.7 of Control of Immigration: Annual Bulletin, United Kingdom 2009, published in August 2010. This publication is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Data for 2010 will be available in August 2011. A summary is as follows:

Analysis of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, made 2005 to 2009; estimated outcomes, as at May 2010[1]

	Principal applicants				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[4]
Total principal applicants	25,710	23,610	23,430	25,930	24,485
Summary of estimated outcomes (including appeal outcomes at IAA/AIT)[2]					
Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum as a percentage of total applications	(21)	(22)	(25)	(26)	(26)
Not recognised as a refugee but granted HP or DL as a percentage of total applications	(11)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(9)
Refused asylum, HP or DL, or withdrawn by appellant as a percentage of total applications	(65)	(64)	(59)	(56)	(52)
Cases with decision not known[3] as a percentage of total applications	(3)	(5)	(7)	(8)	(13)

[1] Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Appeals do not include outcomes of cases reconsidered prior to appeal. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal/Immigration Appeal Review or higher courts.

[3] No confirmation of a decision had been received when statistics were compiled on 10 May 2010. Includes appeals awaiting an outcome.

[4] Provisional figures.

The proportion of refused applicants does not include outcomes of cases reconsidered prior to appeal, and they also may include cases that were successful after appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal/Immigration Appeal Review or higher courts.

Information on those refused asylum and returned to their home country is not available and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of management information at disproportionate cost.

Crime: Statistics

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of *(a)* the accuracy of statistical information on crime provided by her Department and *(b)* the merits of proposals to change the method of (i) gathering and (ii) publishing crime statistics. [44155]

Lynne Featherstone: In line with the code of practice for official statistics, information about the accuracy and quality of crime statistics produced by the Home Office are published alongside the statistics. In its report on trust in crime statistics published in May 2010, the UK Statistics Authority assessed the technical quality of Home Office crime statistics to compare well with corresponding statistics for other countries. However, the authority also indicated that much crime and antisocial behaviour is being missed by both the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime and the statistics give an incomplete and partial picture.

The Authority also noted the importance of the statistics being seen as free from political interference to improve public trust in them. This is why, as set out in the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS, she asked for independent advice from Jil Matheson, the National Statistician, on changes to the scope of crime statistics and on the future collection arrangements once responsibility for their publication moves from the Home Office to an independent body.

Deaths: Registration

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to ensure that deaths occurring in England are registered in a timely and exhaustive manner. [44190]

Damian Green: The Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 provides that any death not reported to a coroner is required to be registered within five days of its occurrence, or within 14 days if written notice of the death is given to the registrar. The Act also places a duty on those qualified to do so (e.g. a relative of the deceased, or any person present at the death) to give information to the registrar to enable the registration to take place, and makes it an offence to fail to do so if required. Additionally, if a death has not been registered within the above time limits, registrars are authorised under the Act to require an informant to attend at the register office for this purpose.

A death reported to a coroner where he or she has opened an inquest may be registered only on the conclusion of the inquest, or before the conclusion of the inquest if the coroner has adjourned it on being informed that a person has been charged with an offence concerning the death.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assets her Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45072]

Damian Green: There has been no sale and lease back of property assets in the last 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44346]

Damian Green: As at 28 February 2011, 244 members of staff were in a redeployment pool/register operated by the Home Office and its agencies. Of these, 143 members of staff had been in a redeployment pool/register for more than six months as of that date.

The number of staff in a redeployment pool/register as at 28 February represents around 0.83% of the total headcount of the Home Office and its agencies. This response covers Home Office HQ, the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) her Department and (ii) the (A) agency and (B) non-departmental public body for which she is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43951]

Damian Green: The cost of procurement functions in the Home Department, its agencies and the non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is provided in the following table. Outsourcing functions are not separately identified and the cost of such functions, if relevant, is included within the figures provided in the table.

Year ended 31 March 2010	*Cost of the procurement function (£000)*
Home Office	3,150
Criminal Records Bureau	282
Identity and Passport Service	3,542
UK Border Agency	4,900
National Police Improvement Agency (inward and outward facing procurement activities)	4,510
Serious Organised Crime Agency	1,928
Independent Police Complaints Commission	159
Independent Safeguarding Authority	69
Total	18,540

Detention Centres

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average monthly cost to the public purse of holding a person in immigration detention in each facility was in 2010. [43392]

Damian Green: It is not possible to answer the question by giving details of average monthly cost in each detention facility since this information is commercially sensitive. Seven out of the 10 immigration removal centres are run by private contractors and the cost for running these centres are only agreed after an extensive tendering exercise. By giving the cost of running these centres we would jeopardise the process of ensuring that the taxpayer gets the optimum price. The average estimated direct monthly cost of holding a person in any of our immigration detention facility is £3,407.

Detention Centres: Children

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of steps taken by immigration detention facilities to improve the family-friendly nature of their institutions; [43611]

(2) what has been her Department's expenditure on steps to make immigration detention centres more family-friendly in the latest period for which figures are available. [43612]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. On 16 December 2010 we published our plans for doing this, including the immediate closure to children of the family unit at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

A fresh approach to managing family returns is being developed which places greater emphasis on engagement with families and aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Most elements of this new process went live across the UK on 1 March, including the setting up of a new independent Family Returns Panel to advise the UK Border Agency on how to ensure the return of those families who do not take up the opportunities to leave under their own steam. A range of options has been developed to provide sufficient flexibility for a tailored approach to each family.

As a backstop, we are also developing a new option of pre-departure accommodation for use when other options for ensuring return have failed. This will not look or feel like an immigration removal centre; families will be held in self-contained flats, providing them with independence and privacy, within a large setting, including extensive grounds. It will be run on a care model rather than a secure one and there will be provision for family members to leave the premises after suitable risk assessments. The project to create the pre-departure accommodation has engaged the use of a number of specialist consultants for areas such as surveying and planning. We have so far received invoices for around £65,000.

The pre-departure accommodation will take a little longer than 1 March to establish so a small number of family rooms will remain available at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre in the meantime. Their use will be kept to an absolute minimum during this interim period. We do not expect them to be used beyond May for families with children, other than for those few cases of families who are refused entry to the UK at the border and need to be held for a short time while enquiries are made and/or until a return flight can be arranged for them. There may also be the occasional need to use Tinsley for criminal or other high-risk families who could not be accommodated safely in the pre-departure accommodation but this would be rare.

The family facility at Tinsley House has just been refurbished to create a far more family-friendly environment. This work has cost £1.3 million.

Both the family unit at Tinsley House and the new pre-departure accommodation will be subject to regular assessments and reporting by UK Border Agency monitors, but also to the oversight and inspection of HM Chief Inspector for Prisons, the Children's Commissioner for England and the Independent Monitoring Board.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support her Department provides to young children detained in the immigration system. [43613]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency takes very seriously its responsibilities towards children. The agency is required under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to carry out its functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. Statutory guidance has been issued to the agency on how to fulfil this duty and all staff are required to complete training on keeping children safe.

As part of the Government's commitment to children, we announced on 16 December 2010 plans to end the detention of families with children for immigration purposes and new processes were rolled out on 1 March to achieve this.

Special arrangements are also in place for unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK to claim asylum. The children are referred to the nearest local authority immediately on arrival to ensure that they receive the same standard of care and support as any other child in need. Their asylum claims are then considered by specialist case owners with enhanced safeguards to take account of their vulnerability. Even if their asylum claims fail the children are not returned to their countries of origin unless appropriate reception and care arrangements have been put in place.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to ensure the welfare of children during the asylum application process. [44817]

Damian Green: We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of asylum seeking children who arrive in the UK either unaccompanied or as part of a family group. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the United Kingdom under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

Where a child forms part of an asylum seeking family, further support has been provided to UKBA staff as part of the recent work to end child detention for immigration purposes. A new asylum instruction was published on 1 March 2011, providing additional advice on how to process an asylum application made by an adult with at least one child dependant under 18, and how to consider the best interests of the child within that process. Specialist training has also been provided for any asylum case owners who will be required to host family return conferences or family departure meetings, both key stages within the new family returns process which was rolled out nationally on 1 March 2011. A new family key worker pilot based in the north-west region started recently with the aim of providing further practical support for families going through the asylum process.

There are a considerable number of safeguards in place to protect the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and these are documented within the 'processing an asylum application from a child' guidance. Recent changes include providing further guidance on considering the best interest of the child, the introduction of a standardised welfare pro forma to ensure newly encountered unaccompanied children's physical welfare is properly considered in advance of any interview, as well as piloting a child specific asylum screening form. All unaccompanied children are referred to a local authority as well as the Refugee Council's Children Panel to ensure they obtain appropriate care and advice throughout the asylum process.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of contracts her Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44220]

Damian Green: The following table provides spend relating to Electoral Reform Services for financial years 2005 to date.

The spend data are also shown for two business areas that are no longer part of the Home Office: Communities Group which moved to Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2006 and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) which formed part of the new Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in 2007.

Spend (£)

Financial year	*HO*	*Communities Group*	*NOMS*
2005-06	n/a	833.50	1,907.84
2006-07	352.50	n/a	1,549.28
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	1,923.22	n/a	n/a
2010-11	1,233.75	n/a	n/a
Total	3,509.47	833.50	3,457,12

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of foreign national *(a)* postgraduate students, *(b)* undergraduate students and *(c)* students on sub-degree level courses who entered the UK on student visas and were entitled to work in the UK for a period after completion of their studies who took up this entitlement in the last five years. [43666]

Damian Green: There are many different work routes available to students on completion of their course. Data on each of these and the previous courses of the students are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate costs.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to citizens of each non-EU country in each of the 12 months to January 2011. [43770]

Damian Green: The following table provides the latest available data, in line with officially published statistics, for the number of student visas granted to applicants of non-EU countries. The data cover the calendar year for 2010.

Main applicant studentltier four stats for 2010, by nationality (issued only), year issued 2010

Nationality	*Total*
Afghanistan	354
Albania	359
Algeria	333
Andorra	2
Angola	233
Antigua and Barbuda	12
Argentina	142
Armenia	104
Australia	1,035
Azerbaijan	432
Bahamas	53
Bahrain	643
Bangladesh	8,989
Barbados	112
Belarus	135
Belize	14
Benin	22
Bhutan	19
Bolivia	44
Bosnia and Herzegovina	53
Botswana	230
Brazil	2,262
British Citizen	8
British Dependent Territories Citizen	[illegible]
British National Overseas	1,816
British Overseas Citizen	1
Brunei	1,034
Burkina Faso	10
Burma (Myanmar)	257
Burundi	5
Cambodia	41
Cameroon	665
Canada	3,503
Cape Verde	2
Central African Republic	0
Chad	2
Chile	348
China	44,234
Colombia	3,556
Comoros	4
Congo	15
Costa Rica	25
Croatia	155
Cuba	8
Democratic Republic of Congo	23
Djibouti	4
Dominica	14
Dominican Republic	22
East Timor (Timor-Leste)	3
Ecuador	145
Egypt	660
El Salvador	16
Equatorial Guinea	13
Eritrea	7
Ethiopia	80
Fiji	11
Gabon	4
Gambia	181
Ghana	832
Grenada	20
Guatemala	21
Guinea	45
Guinea-Bissau	1
Guyana	31
Haiti	4
Honduras	14
Hong Kong	5,317
Hungary	0
India	42,545
Indonesia	907
Iran	2,483
Iraq	356
Israel	208
Ivory Coast	33
Jamaica	104
Japan	3,760
Jordan	765
Kazakhstan	2,121
Kenya	916
Korea (North)	2
Kosovo	62
Kuwait	1,130
Kyrgyzstan	81
Laos	1
Lebanon	370
Lesotho	17
Liberia	22
Libya	2,440
Macau	165
Macedonia	77
Madagascar	15
Malawi	166
Malaysia	6,284
Maldives	69
Mali	22
Mauritania	9
Mauritius	733
Mexico	1,068
Moldova	64
Monaco	3
Mongolia	135
Montenegro	48
Morocco	490
Mozambique	31
Namibia	30
Nauru	0
Nepal	2,333
New Zealand	212
Nicaragua	8
Niger	6

Main applicant student/tier four stats for 2010, by nationality (issued only), year issued 2010

Nationality	*Total*
Nigeria	10,948
Oman	645
Pakistan	24,485
Palestinian Authority	2
Panama	21
Papua New Guinea	12
Paraguay	4
Peru	214
Philippines	3,772
Qatar	895
Russia	3,160
Rwanda	58
San Marino	2
Sao Tome and Principe	0
Saudi Arabia	8,090
Senegal	116
Serbia	232
Seychelles	54
Sierra Leone	108
Singapore	1,846
Solomon Islands	1
Somalia	7
South Africa	495
South Korea	6,488
Sri Lanka	7,583
St Kitts and Nevis	12
St Lucia	47
St Vincent	40
Stateless (Art One 1951 Convention)	14
Sudan	188
Surinam	1
Swaziland	13
Switzerland	0
Syria	395
Taiwan	3,535
Tajikistan	40
Tanzania	476
Thailand	5,085
Togo	16
Tonga	3
Trinidad and Tobago	359
Tunisia	57
Turkey	4,212
Turkmenistan	212
Uganda	399
Ukraine	839
United Arab Emirates	913
United Nations	11
United States	14,477
Unspecified Nationality	39
Uruguay	22
Uzbekistan	138
Vanuatu	1
Venezuela	303
Vietnam	2,719
Western Samoa	1
XXB (Refugee 1957 Convention)	8
XXC (Northern Cyprus)	5
XXH (Hong Kong SAL)	80
XXP (Palestinian Stateless)	214
Yemen	159
Yugoslavia	5
Zambia	230
Zimbabwe	248
Grand total	253,786

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students from *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* outside the EU were attending (i) universities and (ii) further education colleges in the UK in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [44984]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply

The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show in the 2009-10 academic year there were 2,493,420 enrolments in UK higher education institutions. Of these enrolments, 125,045 were EU domiciled (excluding UK) and 280,760 were non-EU domiciled. Domicile has been used as opposed to nationality as this is a more widely used and reliable method of measuring overseas students.

In 2009-10, 2,322,200 learners were participating in Government-funded further education at a general further education colleges (including tertiary colleges) in England. Of these learners, 14,800 had a country of domicile in the EU (excluding the UK) and 5,400 had a country of domicile outside of the EU. Information on the nationality of learners in further education is not available. Information regarding students attending further education colleges in the rest of the UK is not held by the Department.

Government-funded learning as recorded on the individualised learner record (ILR) for further education is restricted to home learners. Therefore funded learners who are non EEA (European economic area) nationals must have been resident in the UK for the three years preceding their course start date and the main purpose for residence was not to receive full-time education during any part of that three year period. There are a limited number of exceptions to this, for example—refugees, learners with indefinite leave to remain status, or learners studying under reciprocal exchange agreements.

The UK continues to welcome genuine students from around the world to study at genuine education institutions here.

Homicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any links between income inequality and rate of (a) homicide and (b) other crime. [44310]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has conducted no formal assessment of the impact of income inequality (ie the gap between the richest and the poorest) on levels of crime. The Home Office has, however, conducted an analysis of the results of the British Crime Survey to see if there is a link between household income and risk of being a victim of crime. This shows that there is no link between household income and violence, criminal damage, domestic burglary or theft from the person. There is a link between the highest earning households and vehicle crime that may be due to the multiple ownership of cars. This analysis was published in the Home Office annual crime statistics publication, "Crime in England and Wales 2009-10".

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the inter-departmental ministerial group on trafficking monitored the progress of anti-trafficking measures in the UK between May 2010 and December 2010; and what reports on activity members of the group received. [42680]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The inter-departmental ministerial group (IDMG) is made up of Ministers from a range of Departments, which have received advice on a range of trafficking matters.

The chair of the IDMG received updates on human trafficking, and officials from a range of Departments monitored progress, based on information provided by operational partners.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to make an announcement on her policy on human trafficking. [44234]

Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. We are committed to tackling organised crime groups which profit from this human misery and to protecting victims. We are due to publish our new strategy on human trafficking in the spring.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to identify victims of human trafficking. [44814]

Damian Green: Since April 2009 we have had in place a multi-agency framework for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking called the national referral mechanism (NRM). Decisions about who is a victim of trafficking are made by trained specialists in designated "competent authorities".

We have initiated a number of improvements to our victim identification processes, including a new package of training for competent authorities and improved guidance for competent authorities and frontline UK Border Agency staff.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will announce the Government's human trafficking policy by way of an oral statement in the House. [44851]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. We are committed to tackling organised crime groups which profit from this human misery and to protecting victims. We are due to publish our new strategy on human trafficking in the spring, either by oral or written statement.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to the EU directive on human trafficking in formulating her policy on human trafficking. [45123]

Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt into the European directive on human trafficking at the outset, but to review our position in line with the revised text. We are currently considering the revised text and will announce a decision in due course.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances force may be used to deport an illegal immigrant; if she will consider the use of alternatives to force in such circumstances; and if she will make a statement. [44774]

Damian Green: We expect all those with no basis of stay in the UK to leave voluntarily, and in certain circumstances we offer assistance with doing so. However, where they refuse to leave we have a duty to uphold our immigration laws by enforcing their departure.

The vast majority of people detained comply with arrangements for their removal, and while they are taken to the airport to be placed on the aircraft, they make the return journey alone. However, a small minority of people even then refuse to leave and, regrettably, escorts have to be used to enforce their departure.

It is not our wish that individuals are restrained, but if they refuse to leave and in some cases even become violent in an attempt to harm the officers, damage the aircraft or generally disrupt their removal, we have to ensure they are controlled for safety reasons and comply with the law. There are no other alternatives when people refuse to go.

Escort officers are trained in the use of control and restraint techniques, which are only used as a matter of last resort when all other alternatives of persuading a person to comply with their removal have failed or they need to be controlled for safety reasons.

The use of restraint is legitimate and lawful so long as its use is justified, proportionate and de-escalated at the earliest opportunity when the individual has complied. Where restraint is used, officers have to complete a comprehensive report, which is submitted to a senior manager and the UK Border Agency escort monitor for review.

Immigrants: Detainees

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on returning immigration detainees to Côte d'Ivoire. [44822]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency considers returns to Côte d'Ivoire on a case by case basis. It does not remove individuals unless it is safe to do so. The agency continues to monitor the situation in Côte d'Ivoire through its Country of Origin Information Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its returns policy is kept constantly under review.

Immigration Controls: Travellers

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the UK Border Agency has to fully deploy smart zones to improve travellers' experiences of immigration controls; and if she will make a statement. [44529]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is currently developing a number of new initiatives, as part of a wider operating process at our ports, which make the most effective use of up-to-date technology. Smart zones are a part of this, using information gathered through the e-Borders system to do more checks in advance of arrival, and there are other elements including e-passport gates. Following trials of smart zones at Luton and Calais conducted last year, we will now work in consultation with port operators and carriers to design port-specific solutions which continue to secure the border and represent best value for money for the taxpayer.

Immigration: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the effect on Northern Ireland of changes in immigration rules. [44559]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department currently has no plans to meet with the Northern Ireland Executive with regard to this matter.

The changes to the immigration rules have been well publicised in Northern Ireland, with officials from the Executive being invited to attend meetings where the changes were discussed. In addition, full consultation exercises were undertaken in which the Executive had the opportunity to make their views known.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were subject to immigration bail conditions in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [44561]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not collate this information as a matter of course. The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter of 19 January 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North as part of the ongoing correspondence on matters concerning a resident of his constituency and the UK Border Agency. [42799]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 7 March 2011.

Missing Persons

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records there are relating to people aged under 18 on the Missing Persons database. [44165]

James Brokenshire: On 2 March 2011, the National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Missing Persons Bureau database Hermes held 509 records of missing incidents involving individuals currently under the age of 18. Police forces are required to notify the bureau of missing people who have not returned within 72 hours of the initial report to the police. Please note these numbers relate to incidents and not individuals.

The Hermes database is an operational database used for policing purposes and it may contain records for individuals who have been found by the force but that have not yet been updated on the database. The data are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Passport Office: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 94-95W, on the Passport Office: Liverpool, if she will publish *(a)* the results of the review undertaken by the Identity and Passport Service into its estate and staff capacity and *(b)* the consultation document being discussed with staff, trade unions and interested parties. [44335]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 541W. The papers used during the consultation process will include the review carried out by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) into its existing and future operational requirements, the multi-criteria analysis and the impact assessment which is due to be published shortly.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on co-operation between police forces of the election of police commissioners from different political parties. [44557]

Nick Herbert: Police authorities throughout England and Wales are made up of members of all political persuasions and independent members and they collaborate extensively.

There is no reason to suppose police and crime commissioners will be any less pragmatic in working with whichever partners bring the best improvement to the police services they provide to the public and they will be answerable at the ballot box if they fall short of that responsibility.

In addition, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill imposes a strong duty on police and crime commissioners to collaborate with each other and with chief constables where it is in the public's best interest. Collaboration is one of the ways we expect police and crime commissioners and chief constables to look for opportunities to deliver policing services in a more effective and efficient manner.

Police Community Support Officers: Redundancy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were made redundant in each police force area in England and Wales in 2010-11. [42041]

Nick Herbert: Separate figures for staff made redundant are not collected centrally. The available data provided in the table show the number of police community support officers dismissed as at 30 September 2010 by police force area. Dismissals include members of staff required to resign, staff who have been made redundant or staff whose contract has been terminated. Figures for the second half of 2010-11 are not yet available.

Police community support officers who have been dismissed as at 30 September 2010, by police force area[1,2]

	Dismissals
Avon and Somerset	1
Bedfordshire	0
Cambridgeshire	3
Cheshire	1
Cleveland	0
Cumbria	0
Derbyshire	0
Devon and Cornwall	0
Dorset	0
Durham	0
Dyfed-Powys	0
Essex	25
Gloucestershire	0
Greater Manchester	1
Gwent	0
Hampshire	1
Hertfordshire	0
Humberside	0
Kent	0
Lancashire	1
Leicestershire	0
Lincolnshire	2
London, City of	0
Merseyside	0
Metropolitan police	20
Norfolk	0
Northamptonshire	0
Northumbria	0
North Wales	0
North Yorkshire	1
Nottinghamshire	0
South Wales	0
South Yorkshire	0
Staffordshire	0
Suffolk	0
Surrey	1
Sussex	0
Thames Valley	2
Warwickshire	2
West Mercia	2
West Midlands	2
West Yorkshire	2
Wiltshire	0
England and Wales	66

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Dismissals include members of staff required to resign, staff who have been made redundant or staff whose contract has been terminated.

Police: Contracts

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the outsourcing of services currently undertaken by police officers. [45124]

Nick Herbert: We are supporting the police service in exploring the value of forming partnerships with private sector organisations for the delivery of back and middle office functions.

Police: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the Police Pension Scheme of the proposed indexation according to the consumer prices index *(a)* in 2010-11 and *(b)* in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years. [40389]

Nick Herbert: The Government have not made any separate estimate of the change in central Government expenditure *(a)* in 2010-11 or *(b)* in the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years for the Police Pension Schemes as a result of the change to indexation of public service pensions and benefits in line with the consumer prices index.

However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure over the forecast period for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1193W and the Office for Budgetary Responsibility, responsible for forecasting expenditure on public service pensions, has included the change to indexation in line with the consumer prices index in its methodology.

Shahid Shabaz Khan

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Pakistan on the potential danger to Shahid Shabaz Khan should he return to that country; and if she will make a statement. [44535]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 March 2011]*: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has had no specific discussion with regards to this matter.

The UK Government take their international responsibilities seriously. We have a proud history of providing refuge to those in genuine need of our protection. Each application is treated on its own merits and decisions are made based on relevant information available at the time.

Special Constables

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of special constables serving in each police force. [44370]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following table which shows the number of special constables in each police force as at 30 September 2010 (headcount).

Special constable strength by force area as at 30 September 2010

	Headcount[1]
Avon and Somerset	461
Bedfordshire	225
Cambridgeshire	189
Cheshire	360
Cleveland	242
Cumbria	139
Derbyshire	297
Devon and Cornwall	632
Dorset	310
Durham	132
Dyfed-Powys	170
Essex	679
Gloucestershire	162
Greater Manchester	451
Gwent	144
Hampshire	450
Hertfordshire	393
Humberside	340
Kent	284
Lancashire	462
Leicestershire	219
Lincolnshire	163
London, City of	79
Merseyside	466
Metropolitan police	3,944
Norfolk	273
Northamptonshire	228
Northumbria	187
North Wales	217
North Yorkshire	187
Nottinghamshire	281
South Wales	214
South Yorkshire	218
Staffordshire	395
Suffolk	333
Surrey	347
Sussex	277
Thames Valley	473
Warwickshire	205
West Mercia	256
West Midlands	612
West Yorkshire	448
Wiltshire	228
Total	16,772

[1] All figures are provisional, subject to change and have not been verified by forces.

Telecommunications: Databases

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on the Intercept Modernisation Programme; and if she will make a statement. [44418]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Interception Modernisation Programme was a programme set up under the last Government. As we made clear in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Government will continue to build on an existing programme of work to preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and to intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. We will legislate to ensure this is compatible with the Government's approach to civil liberties and use of communications capabilities. As set out in the Home Office's Structural Reform Plan, details of this legislation will be announced in Parliament in due course.

Terrorism: Deaths

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether each death arising from the terrorist attacks in London on 7 July 2005 has been registered in the register of deaths for England. [44189]

Damian Green: All deaths arising from the terrorist attacks in London on 7 July 2005 were registered between 20 August 2007 and 28 January 2008.

UK Human Trafficking Centre

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what mechanism she plans to put in place to ensure that a focus on the safeguarding needs of trafficked children is maintained within the proposed National Crime Agency; [44161]

(2) whether she has plans to integrate the UK Human Trafficking Centre into the National Crime Agency; [44162]

(3) what the proposed *(a)* roles and *(b)* responsibilities are of agencies within the proposed National Crime Agency in respect of safeguarding children and young people; [44163]

(4) what plans she has for the future of the UK Human Trafficking Centre. [44341]

Damian Green: The consultation document, "Policing in the 21st Century" announced our intention to create a powerful new body of operational crime fighters—the National Crime Agency—to tackle serious and organised crime more effectively and strengthen our borders. To be established in 2013, this powerful new body will harness and build on the intelligence, analytical and enforcement capabilities of the existing Serious Organised Crime Agency, of which the UK Human Trafficking Centre is a part, and better connect these capabilities to those within the police service, HM Revenue and Customs, the UK Border Agency and a range of other criminal justice partners. It will contain a Border Policing Command that will enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on trafficking of people, weapons and drugs. Further details will be published shortly.

Vetting

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been barred by the Independent Safeguarding Authority in the *(a)* statutory, *(b)* sporting, *(c)* faith and *(d)* uniformed groups sector in relation to harm or risk of harm to 16 and 17-year-olds in each year since the organisation was established. [44962]

Lynne Featherstone: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) does not collect data in the form requested.

The ISA operates under powers established in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which defines a child as anyone who has not attained the age of 18. The ISA can bar individuals who demonstrate harm or a risk of harm to children in general rather than those defined by any specific age category.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43241]

Damian Green: The Home Office does have a policy on volunteering. Our policy encourages staff to take up to five days special leave to develop their skills and experience, while giving something back to the community. In September 2010, the Home Office produced guidance on volunteering for the Olympics which has been adopted by a large number of other Government Departments. We also offer guidance on charitable fundraising to encourage staff to take part in fundraising events.

There is no official policy for donating through the payroll but regular promotions take place to encourage staff to set up regular monthly donations. Promotions are managed by inviting charities into offices and directly through intranet and in-house staff magazine campaigns. Permanent guidance on how to set up payments is on our intranet.

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces: Middle East

Mr Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the threat to UK security from the situation in the middle east; and if he will review the Government's programme of reductions in the strength of the armed forces in the light of that assessment. [44122]

Dr Fox: I have been asked to reply.

The National Security Council has considered the risks to UK interests, including to our nationals, from the situation in the middle east. The Government will keep the developing situation under review but the events of the last few weeks have reinforced the assessments made in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, including the requirement to be able to respond flexibly with the armed forces able to deal efficiently with a variety of different scenarios.

CABINET OFFICE

Census

Mr Knight: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the 2011 Census. [44275]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what is the most recent estimate of the cost to the public purse of the 2011 Census. (44275)

The most recent estimated total cost of the 2011 Census in England and Wales is £482 million. This covers the period 2005-2016.

The cost and financial control of the 2011 Census was outlined in the White Paper 'Helping to shape tomorrow' which was published in December 2008 and is available on the website

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/legislation/index.html

Civil Servants: Leave

Damian Hinds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what practice the civil service has adopted on the accrual of holiday days during maternity leave. [44523]

Mr Maude: The Sex Discrimination Act, Maternity and Paternity Leave etc. Regulations require that holiday days should accrue during both ordinary and additional maternity leave. Arrangements for taking accrued leave may vary from Department to Department under the delegated authority to make their own arrangements for maternity leave.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44213]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not placed any contracts with Electoral Reform Services in financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Government Departments: Business Plans

Stella Creasy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) which Secretaries of State the Minister of State with responsibility for the co-ordination of policy has met to discuss *(a)* implementation of departmental business plans and *(b)* instances when actions stated in such plans as due for completion have not been completed by the due date since November 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place; [44751]

(2) which Permanent Secretaries the Cabinet Secretary has met to discuss *(a)* implementation of departmental business plans and *(b)* instances when actions stated in such plans as due for completion have not been completed by the due date since November 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place. [44752]

Mr Letwin: The Government are committed to publishing monthly updates on Departments' progress against key actions and milestones of business plans. The latest updates were published on 4 March 2011. I meet with Secretaries of State and their Permanent Secretaries on a quarterly basis to discuss the implementation of their business plans and I refer the hon. Member to my evidence to the Public Accounts Select Committee on 9 February 2011.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to abolish his post. [44119]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is to be paid to each local authority in new homes bonus in the financial year 2011-12. [44511]

Grant Shapps: The new homes bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and empty properties brought back into use, for the following six years with an enhancement for affordable homes. New homes bonus provisional allocations for English local authorities have been deposited in the Library of the House. Local authorities have until 10 March to make representations on the data that are used to calculate the payments.

The summary of responses to the consultation, final scheme design and provisional allocations were published on 17 February and can be viewed at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

Affordable Housing: Olympic Games 2012

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether domestic properties built on the Olympic Park will be eligible for the new homes bonus. [44328]

Grant Shapps: The new homes bonus is a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive for local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing growth. All properties that add to a local authority's effective housing stock will be eligible for the bonus; this includes new homes and empty homes brought back into use. Details of how the level of effective housing is calculated are set out in the final scheme design, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1846530.pdf

Community Development Foundation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments and grants the Community Development Foundation made in relation to the prevention of extremism since its inception. [43850]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not provided any payment or grant to the Community Development Foundation in relation to the prevention of extremism since its inception.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what individual payments his Department made to *(a)* the Muslim Council of Britain and *(b)* its associated bodies in each of the last three years; and for what purpose in each case. [43851]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government provided £2,500 to the Muslim Council of Britain for a guest table at the council leadership dinner held on 22 February 2010. DCLG has not provided any further funding to the Muslim Council of Britain for the organisation to undertake work or projects.

For an interim period, funding for the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) was routed through the council as one of MINAB's founding members as MINAB had not then acquired independent charitable status, and as a result did not have its own bank account. Funding for MINAB was made directly to it as soon as it became an independent organisation. The funding was to support it to improve standards in mosques (£116,000 in 2008-09 and £58,000 in 2009-10).

Muslim Council of Britain has a large and wide-ranging national membership of organisations that are affiliated to it. Of these, DCLG has funded the following organisations through the Community Leadership Fund:

Muslim Youth Helpline—£30,650 (2008-09), £61,888 (2009-10), £64,767 (2010-11) to build its capacity to extend the reach of its support services to vulnerable young people,

Karimia Institute—£67,180 (2008-09), £50,000 (2009-10), £50,000 (2010-11) for youth leadership training.

Islamic Society of Britain—£20,000 (2008-09) for developing the Islamic Awareness Week website to promote positive understanding of Islam to other communities.

Young Muslims UK—£20,000 (2008-09), £5,000 (2009-10) to promote talent among young Muslims

Muslim Aid—£5,000 (2009-10) for part-sponsorship of Muslim Aid's 25th Anniversary.

Housing Occupancy

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the capacity of registered social landlords to provide appropriately-sized accommodation for working age tenants in properties of a size not warranted by their household size who wish to move; [43835]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of socially-rented properties of each number of bedrooms in each local authority area to be allocated by local authorities and registered social landlords to meet demand arising from social tenants of working age moving to properties warranted by their household size. [43837]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 570W.

Local Government Services: Third Sector

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role he expects the big society to play in providing services previously provided by local government. [44118]

Andrew Stunell: The big society is neither a single initiative nor a traditional Government programme. Rather, the big society is about putting individuals and groups in the driving seat in their communities, with Government playing an enabling role. So one of the three pillars of the big society is our work on public sector reform through which public services will be opened to new providers such as charities, social enterprises and private companies to make them more innovative, diverse and responsive to public need.

A key plank of this strategy will be delivered through the Localism Bill, which will be introducing new rights to enable communities to challenge to take over running local authority services, and help them save assets and facilities that are important to them.

The community right to challenge will enable voluntary and community groups, local authority employees that wish to deliver the service as a mutual, and parish councils to express an interest in running a local authority service where they believe they could do it differently or better. The authority must consider the expression of interest and where it accepts it, run a procurement exercise for the service.

Also, while retaining accountability for standards, Government need to give professionals more freedom so we have ended the comprehensive area assessment, the national indicator set and central control of local area agreement targets.

Local Government: Milk

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the quantity of milk purchased by each local authority in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how much each local authority spent on *(a)* milk and *(b)* other dairy products in that period. [44730]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Financial or quantitative information on milk and other dairy products purchased by local authorities in England is not held centrally.

Mortgages

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* restrictions under section 157 of the Housing Act 1985 and *(b)* other statutory restrictions on sale or purchase related to residency on the willingness of lenders to grant mortgages for purchases. [44123]

Grant Shapps: We have not made any formal assessment of the impact of statutory residential restrictions on the availability of mortgage finance. The decision to lend on any property or to any individual is essentially a commercial judgment for the lender.

Public Expenditure

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on foreign travel in each of the last three years; and in respect of which countries the expenditure was incurred. [44025]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated March 2011:

Parliamentary Question: how much the Audit Commission spent on foreign travel in each of the last three years; and in respect of which countries the expenditure was incurred.

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive on leave.

The Audit Commission spent £2,168.28 on foreign travel in 2008, £1,306.83 in 2009 and £224.30 in 2010. Only standard/economy tickets were purchased. Details of the journeys are given below:

Country	*Detail*
2008	
Portugal	Attendance and presentation on the Commission's work on payment by results in the NHS at the Patient Classification Systems International Conference.
Canada	Attendance as part of a UK delegation organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing. The delegation included staff from CLG, Scottish Parliament, and the Welsh Assembly.
Austria	Attendance at a Eurorai seminar on auditing benefits.
Malta	Attendance at the European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network annual assembly. The Audit Commission attended as the UK voting representative.
Belgium	Attendance at a conference on the potential role of the external auditor in carbon reduction and corporate social responsibility.
2009	
Iceland	Attendance at a formal creditors' meeting convened in relation to Landsbanki, one of the failed Icelandic banks.
Denmark	Presentation of a paper at the International Research Seminar on Public Service Management and gathering information about international best practice.
Germany	Attendance at a European TeamMate User Forum. TeamMate is the audit software used by the Audit Commission.
Spain	Attendance at a Eurorai seminar on environmental auditing.
2010	
Spain	Invitation to speak at the Spanish Auditors Conference in Barcelona on the Commission's experience of using the private sector on public sector audits.
Belgium	Attendance at a conference on the potential role of the external auditor in carbon reduction and corporate social responsibility.

Rented Housing: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to bring forward proposals to remove more quickly antisocial tenants causing problems for other residents. [44802]

Grant Shapps: As I announced on 11 January, we are proposing to introduce a new mandatory ground for possession for serious housing-related antisocial behaviour which will make it easier for landlords to take swift and decisive action against the most antisocial tenants. Officials are currently working on details of this proposal which will require legislation to come into force.

My Department is also exploring jointly with the Ministry of Justice whether any unnecessary obstacles to the swift resolution of antisocial behaviour possession cases where serious harm is being caused to individuals and communities exist and, if so, how these can be overcome.

More widely, the Government are currently consulting on proposals to streamline and improve the existing toolkit available to the police, social landlords and others to tackle antisocial behaviour. The proposals are intended to better protect victims and communities from the serious harm caused by criminal and antisocial behaviour by making the tools faster, more flexible, and more effective.

Rough Sleeping

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps he has taken to reduce the number of people who are sleeping rough. [44803]

Grant Shapps: This Government are committed to tackling rough sleeping. We have maintained the level of Homelessness Grant, with £400 million being made available to local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next four years to help them reduce rough sleeping and prevent homelessness.

A cross-departmental Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness has been set up to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people.

We have introduced a new way of evaluating rough sleeping levels. All areas across England now provide counts or robust estimates giving a clear national picture so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Social Conditions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of potential links between income inequality and social and community cohesion. [44090]

Andrew Stunell: All Citizenship Survey data are publicly available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/research/citizenshipsurvey/

The Citizenship Survey gathers regular information on perceptions of community cohesion, defined as the extent to which people agree or disagree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Levels of overall community cohesion are high. In 2009-10, 85% of people in England agreed that their local area was one where people from different backgrounds got on well together.

For the purposes of considering the relationship between income inequality and community cohesion in England, two measures are used here: an area-based measure of deprivation, and the income of the survey respondent.

Table 1 shows levels of community cohesion by area deciles, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The table shows levels of cohesion for the 10% least deprived neighbourhoods through to the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods.

Table 1: Community cohesion by Index of Multiple Deprivation, England, 2009-10

Index of Multiple Deprivation[1]	*Percentage of people who definitely agree or tend to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together*
1 (Least deprived)	89
2	90
3	88
4	90
5	88
6	86
7	83
8	79
9	79
10 (Most deprived)	75
All	85

[1] Based on deciles classified according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2007.

Table 2 shows levels of community cohesion for different levels of respondent income, showing the percentage of people who agreed or disagreed that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds got on well together. It shows that levels of community cohesion were high across all respondent income bands.

Table 2: Community cohesion by respondent income, England, 2009-10

Respondent income[1]	*Percentage of people who definitely agree or tend to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together*
£75,000 or more	88
£50,000-£74,999	85
£30,000-£49,999	87
£20,000-£29,999	85
£15,000-£19,999	87
£10,000-£ 14,999	83
£5,000-£9,999	84
Under £5,000	82
All	85

[1] Based on respondent income only, this does not reflect the income of the household.

Translation Services

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has spent on translation and interpretation costs in each of the last three years; and in respect of which languages. [43849]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 8 March 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply in the absence of the Chief Executive, who is on leave.

The Audit Commission spent £17,311.31 in 2010/11, £4,608.78 in 2009/10 and £12,588.51 in 2008/9 on translation and interpretation services. These costs were incurred in order to meet the Commission's responsibilities under disability and race equality legislation. For example, the Commission provides translation of documents in alternative languages on request.

A list of languages is given below.

List of languages

British sign language

Braille

Lithuanian

Punjabi
Gujarati
Bengali
Urdu
Hindi
Cantonese
Mandarin
Spanish
Somali
Albanian
Farsi
Kurdis
Sora
Polish

Voting Systems

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* the Community Development Foundation and *(b)* other non-departmental public bodies on participation in initiatives which favour a particular outcome from the referendum on the alternative vote; and if he will make a statement. [43848]

Andrew Stunell: My Department has not issued any guidance to either the Community Development Foundation nor any other non-departmental public body on the alternative vote. Cabinet Office officials will be publishing guidance in due course.

TREASURY

Green Investment Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects on the credit rating for UK debt of placing the liabilities of the proposed Green Investment Bank on the national balance sheet. [43265]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* All credit ratings, including sovereign ratings, are a matter for credit rating agencies. All three major credit rating agencies continue to assign the UK the highest possible credit rating.

Aggregates Levy: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the European Commission since 15 December 2010 on state aid approval for the aggregates levy credit scheme in Northern Ireland. [44772]

Justine Greening: The Government remain fully committed to reinstating the aggregates levy credit scheme in Northern Ireland. Officials are working closely with the authorities in Northern Ireland and representatives of the quarrying industry to provide the Commission with evidence to enable it to approve the aggregates levy credit scheme both retrospectively and for the future.

Air Passenger Duty

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review his proposals for increases in air passenger duty. [44465]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W, to the hon. Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter).

Child Benefit

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the value of child benefit payments awarded under the EU co-ordination of social security systems in respect of children living in other EU member states can exceed the full UK rate; [44264]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to prevent fraud in cases where child benefit and tax credits are paid to EEA nationals where a child is resident in another EU member state. [44269]

Justine Greening: UK child benefit payable under EC Regulation 883/2004 in respect of children resident in another EU/EEA member state will not exceed the full UK rate.

As with all other child benefit and child tax credit claims, the claimant must provide documentary evidence of the child being claimed for, such as an original birth or adoption certificate. In addition, where a claim is made under EC Regulation 883/2004, HMRC will carry out further checks with the authorities of the other member state to confirm the composition of the family, whether the other parent is working there and whether that member state is paying family benefits. Payments of UK family benefits are not made until the other member state has provided the necessary confirmation.

Child Benefit: British Nationals Abroad

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* child benefit is and *(b)* tax credits are payable to any UK nationals living outside the EEA. [44268]

Justine Greening: Child benefit and tax credits are intended to support families with children and those in low-paid work here. Nationality is not a condition of entitlement. Instead, entitlement to child benefit and tax credits is generally reliant on claimants being in the UK, that is they must be present, ordinarily resident and have a right to reside.

However, UK Crown servants (such as armed forces personnel and civil servants) posted overseas and their accompanying partners may be treated as being in the UK and may therefore be entitled to child benefit and tax credits during the period of their posting.

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households in receipt of the maximum entitlement for assistance with child care costs in *(a)* each region, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland at the latest date for which figures are available. [44388]

Mr Gauke: The number of households known to be in receipt of the maximum entitlement for assistance with child care costs through the child care element of tax credits at December 2010 is shown in the following table.

Families benefiting from the maximum entitlement for assistance with child care costs

Region	*Number*
North East	435
North West	1,360
Yorkshire and Humberside	830
East Midlands	1,005
West Midlands	1,000
East	1,455
London	7,075
South East	1,955
South West	580
Wales	590
Scotland	1,095
Northern Ireland (NI Dataset)	435
All	17,815

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of expenditure from the public purse on the provision of assistance with child care costs in 2011-12. [44389]

Mr Gauke: Child care assistance through the child care element of working tax credit is estimated to cost the Exchequer £1.6 billion in 2011-12.

Income tax and NICs forgone through employer-supported child care is estimated to cost the Exchequer £600 million in 2011-12.

In addition the Department for Education also funds 15 hours per week (for 38 weeks a year) of free early education for all three and four-year-olds. This is also being extended gradually to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds. Local authorities in England spent over £4 billion on provision for under fives last year, on the early education entitlement and reception classes in schools.

Credit Default Swaps

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the regulation of credit default swaps and similar instruments. [44678]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials hold various meetings and discussions with representatives from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45067]

Justine Greening: The Department aims to pay at least 80% of invoices within five working days. The monthly payment performance statistics for the Treasury Group can be found on the Treasury's website. Figures for February will be published in due course.

Details of the link to the payment performance data are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/group_payment_performance.htm

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45066]

Justine Greening: The Treasury has not sold and leased back any assets in the past 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44344]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury manages its own deployment pool which facilitates the movement of staff across the Department. As of 3 March 2011, there were a total of 31 employees within the HM Treasury deployment pool, seven of which have been in the deployment pool for over six months.

Immigrants: Income

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many foreign-born *(a)* millionaires and *(b)* billionaires moved to the UK in each of the last 10 years. [44378]

Mr Gauke: There is no obligation for individuals to declare their level of wealth to HM Revenue and Customs. Therefore no data are available on the number of foreign-born individuals resident in the UK who can be described as a millionaire or a billionaire.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average it takes HM Revenue and Customs' National Insurance Contributions Office Special Section A to produce a schedule of employment history in industrial disease claims in response to *(a)* urgent and *(b)* non-urgent requests. [44291]

Mr Gauke: Requests for employment history schedules relating to customers suffering from mesothelioma are categorised as "urgent". HMRC's National Insurance Contributions and Employer Office (NIC&EO) issues schedules for these cases within 10 working days of receipt.

All other requests for employment histories received by NIC&EO Special Section A are routinely dealt with on a "first in, first out" basis. The current customer waiting time (oldest request waiting to be processed) is

89 days. However, NIC&EO management are looking to improve the provision of employment histories and will soon trial a revised process that is expected to improve response times for non-urgent requests.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for schedules of employment history from HM Revenue and Customs' National Insurance Contributions Office Special Section A are outstanding in industrial disease claims. [44292]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's National Insurance Contributions and Employer Office (NIC&EO) has 18,400 requests on hand to be processed. Requests for employment histories have increased by 30% on this time last year, but NIC&EO has redeployed resources to respond to the increased demand.

Members: Correspondence

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North of 25 January 2011 on the future funding arrangements of the Northern Rock Foundation. [44243]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mortgages: Misrepresentation

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to assist individuals who have been mis-sold mortgage endowment policies to achieve legal redress for their losses. [44913]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) requires firms to explain the risks associated with investment products, such as mortgage endowment policies, when these products are sold.

If individuals do not feel the risks were explained properly to them, in the first instance they should complain to the company through which they bought the product. This should be done as soon as possible after the individual decides they have cause for complaint.

If the individual is not satisfied with the firm's response, they may consider referring the complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). The Government are unable to intervene in or advise on individual cases.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 38W, and to the answer of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 428-30W, on NHS: redundancy pay (1) how many special severance payments were reported to his Department by each NHS Foundation Trust in accordance with his Department's guidance in Annex 4.13 of Managing Public Money in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value was of such payments in each case; [44899]

(2) what the total monetary value was of special severance payments made by NHS Foundation Trusts and reported to his Department in accordance with its guidance in Annex 4.13 of Managing Public Money in each of the last three years; [44900]

(3) how many special severance payments have been reported to his Department in total by NHS Foundation Trusts in accordance with his Department's guidance in Annex 4.13 of Managing Public Money in each of the last three years. [44901]

Danny Alexander: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Treasury's role is to ensure that individual special severance payments are fully justified in terms of value for money and legal risk. Total payments across the NHS are a matter for the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley).

Private Finance Initiative

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the capital value was of private finance initiative agreements signed by the Government in each year from 1992 to 2010. [44124]

Danny Alexander: Lists of signed and in procurement private finance initiative (PFI) projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and whether it is on or off balance sheet, as used by the ONS in calculating public sector net debt.

These data are currently being updated and revised data will be published at Budget 2011.

The following table details the capital value of projects which reached financial close within the years requested.

Calendar year	*Sum of capital value for projects reaching financial close (£ million)*[1]
1992	485
1993	0
1994	0
1995	68
1996	1,064
1997	1,909
1998	2,413
1999	2,519
2000	3,562
2001	2,248
2002	[2]8,005
2003	4,284
2004	3,894
2005	3,500
2006	7,034
2007	5,517
2008	4,357
2009	4,710
2010[3]	[3]615

[1] This summary table was produced using information gathered by HM Treasury during a data collection exercise in January and February 2010. This information is provided by the Departments that own/sponsor the projects, and is not audited by HM Treasury. These figures are for projects which were classified as PFI projects at Budget 2010. These figures do not include eight projects for which incomplete information was provided.

[2] This figure includes over £5.5 billion for a Transport for London project. Although this was considered to be a PFI at financial close, subsequent changes mean that the Department for Transport no longer consider this to be a PFI. It is included here for consistency because this recategorisation occurred following Budget 2010.

[3] Data for 2010 are incomplete and are currently being updated. This will be published around Budget 2011.

Tax Allowances: Married People

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on the introduction of transferable tax allowances for married couples. [44290]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W.

Taxation: Banks

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sanctions will apply if major banks do not comply with his Department's new code of practice on taxation. [42281]

Mr Hoban: As at the 17 October 2010, only four out of the top 15 banks had adopted the code since its introduction in 2009. All of the top 15 have now adopted the code.

The Government expect banks to comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the law and not to engage in avoidance. Having adopted the code, banks are responsible for adhering to it.

HM Revenue and Customs will monitor the effectiveness of the code as part of its large business strategy.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44356]

Mr O'Brien: As at 4 March 2011, the Department for International Development (DFID) had 35 members of staff receiving redeployment support to mitigate the risk of redundancy. All 35 continue to be fully engaged in DFID work. Of these, eight have been receiving redeployment support for more than six months.

Developing Countries: Remittances

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the economic effects of remittances from the UK on developing countries receiving the largest amounts of such remittances. [44959]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) 12 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 319W. Due to data quality issues we cannot identify flows of remittances from the UK to developing countries and therefore cannot isolate their specific economic impact.

However, research by the DFID-funded Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty at the University of Sussex shows that remittances can boost growth in developing countries by financing investment, consumption and production growth. Remittances are a relatively stable source of foreign exchange earnings and provide support to the balance of payments. Findings from six years of research by the research centre are summarised in its report "Making Migration Work for Development" (2010). Remittances can also contribute to poverty reduction. A joint study by DFID and the United Nations, "Impact of Remittances on Poverty" (2009) found that a 10% rise in remittances reduced the poverty headcount ratio by 3.9% in developing countries where remittances account for more than 5.0% of gross domestic product.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services Ltd in each year since 2005. [44221]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not contracted with the Electoral Reform International Services since 2007. Information for previous years cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

International Assistance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; [44131]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to achieve universal primary education; [44132]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the UK's contribution to progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals; [44133]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to develop a global partnership for development; [44134]

(5) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to ensure environmental sustainability; [44135]

(6) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases; [44136]

(7) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to help improve maternal health; [44138]

(8) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to reduce child mortality; [44139]

(9) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to promote gender equality and empower women. [44140]

Mr O'Brien: An assessment of progress towards each of the Millennium Development Goals was published in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) Annual Report in July 2010. A further assessment of progress will be published in this year's Annual Report in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to help ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved. [44137]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for international Development (DFID) has conducted two thorough reviews of the UK's bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to determine how we can accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and achieve maximum value for money for the UK taxpayer. The outcomes of these reviews were presented to the House by the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend, on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 167-169.

In December 2010 DFID launched two new Frameworks for Results to tackle malaria and prevent deaths during pregnancy and childbirth. They set out how British aid money will deliver the coalition Government's commitment to help halve malaria deaths in at least 10 high burden countries in Africa and Asia and save the lives of at least 50,000 women and 250,000 newborns. Full details are available on the DFID website.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on international aid and development. [44158]

Mr O'Brien: Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers discuss international aid and development issues regularly with UN counterparts. The most recent discussion was with the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, on 5 March 2011, and focused upon the situation in Libya.

Rwanda: Health Services

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the integration of maternal health services and tuberculosis services in Rwanda; and what mechanism his Department has put in place to share best practice on integration of such services. [45174]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not carried out an assessment specifically on the effectiveness of the integration of maternal health services and tuberculosis services in Rwanda. The performance of the health sector as a whole is regularly assessed jointly by the Government of Rwanda and donors—most recently at the Joint Health Sector Review of September 2010. The Government of Rwanda are very proactive in disseminating their best practice to other developing country Governments and have, for example, recently done so with respect to results-based health financing and community health insurance.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has in respect of distribution of aid to Yemen in 2011-12. [44255]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) plans to focus its support on improving access to basic services, such as health, education and water; building the capacity of police and justice services to better understand and respond to the needs of Yemeni citizens; and. improving the business environment to create more wealth and jobs. Through our programme of support, we aim to help address the most immediate causes of poverty, conflict and instability, and to create a more favourable environment for a sustained improvement in Yemen's development and stability. However, we are keeping our programme plans under constant review in the light of current events within Yemen.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* direct aid and *(b)* multilateral aid his Department plans to distribute to Yemen in 2011-12. [44256]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) will provide up to £65 million in bilateral aid to Yemen in financial year 2011-12. This is dependent on the Government of Yemen's commitment to reform. As with other bilateral country programmes, part of this money will be used to fund programmes run by multilateral agencies in country. It is not possible yet to say what share of DFID's core funding to multilateral agencies will be allocated to Yemen in 2011-12.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to provide aid assistance to any additional projects in Yemen following the unrest in that country. [44257]

Mr O'Brien: We are monitoring the situation in Yemen closely and will keep our programme plans, in respect of both development and humanitarian support, under regular review in light of current events within Yemen.

SCOTLAND

RAF Kinloss

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the handling of redundancies at RAF Kinloss when the base ceases operational activity at the end of May 2011. [44126]

Michael Moore: Details of the RAF redundancy process and the fields for Tranche 1 of those redundancies have been published; the first RAF personnel compulsory redundancies will not take effect until March 2012 for applicants and September 2012 for non-applicants, and will be drawn from across the RAF, not just Kinloss. I am in regular contact with Cabinet colleagues to contribute to the work currently ongoing to analyse implications for all Defence personnel in Scotland affected by the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45099]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office paid 100% of its January and February 2011 invoices within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for his Department that *(a)* was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and *(b)* complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 to date. [45038]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has no in-house catering facilities and the provision of food is generally limited to catering associated with official hospitality and is supplied by external contractors. The Office does not separately record the purchase of seafood.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44224]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not placed any contracts with the Electoral Reform Services in any year since 2005.

Military Assistance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of his Department's priorities in respect of *(a)* military assistance to civil powers in Scotland and *(b)* civil contingencies and emergency powers in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [44104]

David Mundell: Military assistance to the civil powers in the United Kingdom is regulated by common law and by statute and requires the authorisation of Defence Ministers. Emergency powers are a reserved matter under the Scotland Act 1998. Many aspects of the management of civil contingencies are devolved to the Scottish Parliament. The Scotland Office works with other Government Departments, with the Scottish Government, and with other bodies as appropriate, to ensure that there is an appropriate response to any civil contingencies or emergencies in Scotland. For instance, during the period of inclement weather in December 2010, I worked with Defence Ministers to ensure that military assistance was provided to civil powers.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Minister for Justice in the Scottish Executive to discuss *(a)* military assistance to civil powers in Scotland and *(b)* civil contingencies and emergency powers in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [44105]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers and officials and other UK Government Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the Scottish Ministers and their officials to ensure that the planning for and response to any civil contingencies in Scotland and across the UK is co-ordinated properly within the framework of the devolution settlement. Emergency powers are a reserved matter under the Scotland Act 1998.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had in February 2011 with the Secretary of State for Defence regarding the implementation of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the future of Royal Air Force bases in Scotland. [44125]

Michael Moore: I met the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in February 2011 and discussed the Strategic Defence and Security Review and matters affecting Scotland.

Visits: Edinburgh

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the arrangements for his visit to Edinburgh on 8 June 2011. [43496]

David Mundell: I understand that the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), visited Edinburgh on 1 June 2010. The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I have had no recent discussions with him about that visit.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biomass

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 945W, on renewable energy: wood, what indicators he plans to use to ascertain the sustainability of woody biomass. [42843]

Gregory Barker: Our earlier answer of 20 January 2011 set out in brief the sustainability criteria we are introducing for the use of solid biomass, including woody biomass, to generate electricity under the renewables obligation (RO) from April this year.

These criteria are a minimum greenhouse gas emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel assessed across a lifecycle that considers the emissions associated with cultivation, processing and transport of the biomass, together with general restrictions on the use of materials from land important on carbon or biodiversity grounds. Such land includes primary forest, peatland and wetland.

We are also continuing with the existing requirement for operators to report on a range of matters relating to the biomass used to the best of their knowledge and belief. These matters include the mass or volume of the biomass used, its type and form, the country of origin or purchase, and whether the biomass is an energy crop, by-product of a process or meets an environmental accreditation scheme. The same set of sustainability criteria will be applied to the use of UK and imported solid biomass, and to both new and existing plants. The sustainability criteria will not apply to solid biomass that is waste or wholly derived from waste.

As set out in our earlier answer, we intend, following a transition phase where solid biomass plants over 50 kilowatts will be required to report on their performance against these criteria, that from April 2013 solid biomass electricity plants of one megawatt and above will be required to meet these criteria in order to receive support under the RO.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 945W, on renewable energy: wood, how the information yielded from sustainability criteria reports will be used to assess sustainability; and what assessment he has made of the likely contribution of such implementation to understanding biomass use; [42844]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 945W, on renewable energy: wood, what timetable he has set for the assessment of the sustainability criteria for *(a)* wood and *(b)* other solid biomass; and if he will make a statement. [42845]

Gregory Barker: We are introducing mandatory reporting on performance against the sustainability criteria under the renewables obligation (RO) from April this year for operators using wood and other solid biomass, above 50 kilowatts capacity. The first reports would be due to be supplied to Ofgem by 31 May 2012, to cover the biomass used by a plant operator between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012. These reports would include performance against the land criteria, an assessment of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions saving relative to fossil fuel and information on the biomass used including mass or volume, country of origin, type and form.

These reports will enable Government, on an annual basis, to assess performance against the sustainability criteria for the use of wood and other solid biomass in electricity generation under the RO. We intend to formally link meeting the criteria with eligibility to receive RO support for operators of 1 megawatt capacity and above from April 2013.

These reports will also provide Government with valuable information on the availability and source of biomass being used for large-scale electricity generation in the UK, the scope for growth of sustainable bio-electricity in the UK and the potential effects on our wood industries. In addition, we believe that the introduction of sustainability criteria that are linked to eligibility for financial support will provide a powerful driver for better understanding across the bioenergy supply-chain of the key levers, such as reducing the use of road transport, that can deliver improved emissions savings.

Therefore, in the Government response to the consultation on the RO Order 2011, we announced DECC, Ofgem and the Environment Agency will jointly develop an easy to use lifecycle tool to assess the GHG emissions associated with bioenergy generation from the cultivation of the feedstock to processing and transport. We intend the tool will be made available online later this year.

Carbon Budgets

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he gave to the merits of including in the Energy Bill provisions for the introduction of local carbon budgets. [44630]

Gregory Barker: Local carbon budgets have been raised on a number of occasions as the Energy Bill passed through the House of Lords. As my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Marland) noted in the Energy Bill debate in the House of Lords, 2 March 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 1067-1119, we have given full consideration to these issues and we have determined that the best way forward is co-operation, not by imposing top down carbon budgets on local authorities.

In support of this cooperative approach, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) hopes to shortly sign a memorandum of understanding with the Local Government Group on how my Department and local authorities will work together to reduce carbon emissions at a local level. This will be a voluntary approach, building on the Nottingham Declaration, but with scrutiny by the people local authorities serve.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45081]

Gregory Barker: Whitehall Departments are no longer required to report on 10 days and instead are required to report on invoices paid within five days of being received. DECC has set itself a challenging target of paying 80% of invoices within five days irrespective of the size of the supplier. The results for January and February of 2011 were 88.7% and 93.9% respectively.

Energy Generation Infrastructure

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the relative costs of energy generation infrastructure and energy efficiency measures designed to reduce demand; and if he will make a statement. [43120]

Charles Hendry: An economic appraisal of the costs and benefits of an intervention, such as a policy to improve energy efficiency, is a mandatory part of impact assessments, and allows consideration of the relative merits of different policy options. This must be carried out in line with HM Treasury's Green Book and the supplementary guidance on the valuation of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for appraisal and evaluation where policies have a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Initial illustrative costs and potential energy demand reductions of the Green Deal energy efficiency policy are outlined in the Green Deal impact assessment accompanying the Energy Bill in December 2010

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

This estimated the average annual finance costs of energy efficiency measures to be £1.4 billion to £2.1 billion. The annual energy saved as a result of these policies in 2020 is estimated to be:

GWh

	Low	High
Electricity	-1596.572058	-2416.833186
Gas	-16756.07948	-25286.44071
Fuel oil	-751.383933	-1134.51274

Levelised cost estimates from Mott Macdonald (2010) that give average generation cost per megawatt-hour for new build plants, in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies, in the UK at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices are set out in the following tables (it should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either 'FOAK' (first-of-a-kind) prices or 'NOAK' (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology).

Case 1: 10% discount rate, 2009 project start at today's EPC prices, with mixed FOAK/NOAK

£/MWh

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS (FOAK)*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC (FOAK)*	*Coal IGCC with CCS (FOAK)*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind (FOAK)*	*Offshore wind R3 (FOAK)*	*Nuclear PWR (FOAK)*
Capital Costs	12.4	29.8	33.4	74.1	61.7	82.0	79.2	124.1	144.6	77.3
Fixed operating costs	3.7	7.7	8.6	18.6	9.7	17.7	14.6	36.7	45.8	12.2
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	4.7	3.4	4.6	—	—	—	2.1
Fuel Costs	46.9	65.0	19.9	28.7	20.3	28.3	—	—	—	5.3
Carbon Costs	15.1	2.1	40.3	6.5	39.6	5.5	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	4.3	—	9.6	—	9.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total levelised cost	80.3	112.5	104.5	142.1	134.6	147.6	93.9	160.9	190.5	99.0

Source:
Mott Macdonald (2010), UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

As new technologies are deployed it is likely that costs will fall due to learning. The second table, as follows, sets out the estimated levelised costs for projects started in 2017 with the assumption that all technologies have reached 'nth-of-a-kind' status.

Case 5: 10% discount rate, 2017 start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK

£/MWh

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCC with CCS*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind*	*Offshore wind R3*	*Nuclear PWR*
Capital Costs	11.2	20.7	28.7	47.8	33.7	46.5	71.7	89.4	97.0	49.6
Fixed operating costs	3.7	6.0	8.6	13.8	8.0	12.3	—	23.0	30.9	9.1
Variable operating costs	2.3	3.6	2.2	3.7	2.7	3.6	—	—	—	1.8
Fuel Costs	49.8	64.7	19.9	27.6	19.6	27.2	—	—	—	5.2
Carbon Costs	29.6	4.1	73.8	11.4	72.0	10.0	—	—	—	—
Decomm and waste fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
CO_2 transport and storage	—	3.5	—	7.6	—	7.5	—	—	—	—
Steam Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Case 5: 10% discount rate, 2017 start at projected EPC prices, all NOAK

£/MWh

Levelised cost	*Gas CCGT*	*Gas CCGT with CCS*	*ASC Coal*	*ASC Coal with CCS*	*Coal IGCC*	*Coal IGCC with CCS*	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind*	*Offshore wind R3*	*Nuclear PWR*
Total levelised cost	96.5	102.6	133.2	111.9	136.0	107.1	86.3	112.4	127.9	67.8

Source:
Mott Macdonald (2010, UK Electricity Generation Costs Update, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. Meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

Energy: Hastings

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in the Hastings Borough Council area did not have a mains supply of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas in the latest period for which figures are available. [45251]

Charles Hendry: Data on the number of households by local authority without an electricity or gas mains supply are not available.

An estimate of the number of households off the gas grid at Government Office region can be derived using data from the English House Survey (EHS), produced by DCLG. In 2008, based on the EHS, there were around 467,000 households in the south-east that did not have a mains gas connection. The number of households without a mains electricity connection is too small to be reliably estimated from a sample survey such as the EHS.

Environment Protection

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department's definition of zero carbon applies to technologies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions by *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 60 per cent., *(c)* 70 per cent., *(d)* 80 per cent., *(e)* 90 per cent., and *(f)* 100 per cent. [44333]

Grant Shapps: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have recently received a report from the independent Zero Carbon Hub on the levels of reductions in carbon emissions which can be achieved by technologies to be installed on or as part of a house as part of meeting the zero carbon standard. The Government are considering this report and we will set out our conclusions in due course.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [44582]

Gregory Barker: The European Union emissions trading system continues to provide an effective means of reducing emissions from heavy industry across the EU. The cap set by the 2009 amending directive will reduce emissions from industry, covered by the scheme, by 21% (on 2005 levels) in 2020.

Nuclear Installations: Accidents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* coolant leaks and *(b)* fires have been recorded at each UK nuclear installation in each of the last five years. [45017]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE/NII) screens incident reports made by licensees to identify those which have had the potential to challenge a nuclear safety system. A search of the raw input data for such screening from January 2005 to the end of December 2010 has been undertaken for details of leaks and fires at nuclear installations.

A 'coolant leak' has been interpreted as being a loss of coolant, including clean coolant, from an item of plant into the working environment of the licensed site. Coolant itself has been interpreted as being water, carbon dioxide or hydrogen on a power station, and water elsewhere.

A 'fire' has been interpreted as being a situation where ignition of material has taken place on the licensed site or instances of smouldering where such ignition could not reasonably be ruled out given the information in the record.

Coolant leaks

Date	*Installation*	*Incident*
2005		
1 January	Heysham 2	Steam leak on Turbine Generator 7
5 February	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from tank
19 February	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from tank
25 February	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak through in-service inspection penetration
15 March	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from ring main
25 June	Dungeness A	Carbon dioxide leak from main CO_2 plant
4 July	Sellafield	Damp patch discovered adjacent to B30 pond wall
25 July	Oldbury	Steam leak through thermocouple pocket of Boiler 4 on Reactor 1
4 August	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak from vaporiser valve
30 October	Dungeness A	Carbon dioxide leak through failed isolation valve to pressure gauge
2006		
30 January	Sellafield	Leak of dosed cooling water from B832 cooling tower
18 February	Sellafield	Leak of pond water through expansion joint above the stainless steel seal in B310 AGR storage pond
24 March	Hunterston B	Carbon dioxide leak in pipe trench
11 September	Hinkley point B	Carbon dioxide leak from supply pump

Coolant leaks

Date	*Installation*	*Incident*
23 September	Hartlepool	Alternator hydrogen coolant leak
26 September	Hartlepool	Fracture of emergency cooling water main
2 October	Dungeness B	Auxiliary cooling water pipe work leak
15 October	Sizewell A	Steam leak from Turbine Alternator 1
18 November	Heysham 2	Steam leak from Reactor 7
2007		
7 January	Sizewell A	Fracture of pond recirculating water system pipe work
18 January	Sellafield	Waste Vitrification Plant electrical inductor cooling water leak
1 March	Hinkley Point B	Carbon dioxide leak outside plant room
26 March	Dungeness B	Carbon dioxide leak in reactor basement
1 June	Hunterston B	Leak from condensate booster pump
2 June	Heysham 2	Leak in low pressure feed heater pipe work
18 July	Dungeness B	Leak of tritiated water identified
19 September	Hartlepool	Leak of pressure vessel cooling water identified on boiler closure unit
26 September	Dungeness B	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
28 September	Hunterston B	Steam leaks in high pressure gland pipe work
27 October	Oldbury	Carbon dioxide leak from fuelling machine
2008		
19 February	Oldbury	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
20 February	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from gas bypass plant
26 June	Heysham 2	Steam leak in gland steam drain line
26 July	Heysham 1	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
7 October	Wylfa	Carbon dioxide leak from storage tank
23 December	Torness	Carbon dioxide leak from valve in the fuel machine standby CO_2 coolant supply.
2009		
24 April	Hartlepool	Hydrogen leak from Unit 2 alternator frame
26 May	Heysham 1	Turbine cooling water leak
28 May	Hinkley Point B	Pressure vessel cooling water leak from Reactor 4 sump
25 June	Heysham 2	Loss of Hydrogen from turbo alternator
8 July	Torness	Leak from spent fuel pond cooling water system
9 December	Sellafield	Fuel pond chiller water leakage
21 December	Heysham 1	Back up cooling water leak soon after start up
2010		
22 January	Sellafield	Leakage of cooling water to active storage tanks
7 June	Dungeness B	Gland steam leak after start up
26 October	Heysham 1	Small water leak from buffer store drain line
8 November	Heysham 1	Emergency cooling water pipe failure and leak

Fire

Date	*Site*	*Incident*
2005		
4 February	Heysham 1	Smouldering lagging on turbine
8 March	Heysham 2	Fire on reactor basement sump pump
22 April	Harwell	Capacitor fire in building 459
22 June	Torness	Variable frequency output transformer fire
30 June	Barrow	Portacabin fire
14 July	Heysham 2	Fire in bearing of fuel handling plant extract fan
16 September	Torness	Fire in purge air compressor no. 2
31 October	Dungeness A	Fire in bulk group 4 LF power supply
2006		
23 January	Sellafield	Smoking bitumen seal around pipe on Combined Heat and Power Plant turbine
24 March	Dounreay	Hydrogen ignition during waste cutting operation in Prototype Fast Reactor
21 April	Springfields	Uranium shredder fire in building 338
23 October	Heysham 2	Smouldering leak management tray beside hot turbine reheat pipe work
23 December	Burghfield	Smouldering cable in plant room
2007		
1 February	Hinkley Point B	Fire in bund of gas circulator lube system
2 June	Hunterston B	Bearing fire on turbo generator 7
12 August	Heysham 2	Bearing fire in cooling water pump
2008		
7 January	Dounreay	Fire in office suite of D1208
13 March	GE Healthcare	Fire in inactive recycling plant
15 June	Rolls Royce Manufacturing	Fire in glove box
2 December	Hartlepool	Aerosol can fire
3 December	Trawsfynydd	convector heater fire in ponds office
2009		
12 March	Heysham 1	Lagging smoke/fire
15 March	GE Healthcare	Fire in services spine duct
31 March	Barrow	Fire on the casing of Astute Boat 2 during welding/grinding operations
18 April	Barrow	Fire on the bridge fin of Astute Boat 1
29 April	Oldbury	Smoking air circuit breaker
18 May	Wylfa	Fire in Turbine alternator
22 July	Sellafield	Extract fan bearing fire
23November	Dungeness B	Boiler annex hydraulic fluid caught fire
2010		
28 May	Dounreay	Small in cell fire of sodium residues
2 July	Sizewell B	Fire in ductwork in heating and ventilation building
4 July	Aldermaston	Solvent fire minor burns to one person
2 August	Oldbury	Lagging fire near turbo alternator
22 September	Sizewell B	Condensate pump fire
30 September	Wylfa	Smouldering electrical contactor in Turbine Hall
25 October	Hinkley Point B	Fire in circulator workshop
8 December	Heysham 2	Bearing failure causing smoke in services building.

Power Stations: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he gave to the inclusion in the Energy Bill of provision for a power to make regulations to improve emissions performance standards for coal and gas-fired power stations. [44628]

Charles Hendry: The Government committed to an Emissions Performance Standard in the Coalition programme for government and is taking this forward as part of the wider package of reforms in the Electricity

Market Reform project and consultation. The consultation has sought views on the proposed options for an EPS and the Government will publish its response in a White Paper later this year.

Single Key Low Carbon Investment Fund

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the Single Key Low Carbon Investment Fund will be spent on activity that was previously funded by the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund. [44771]

Gregory Barker: The single key low carbon investment funding was made available in Budget 2009 for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11. It did not duplicate the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund, but it has supported marine technology development, i.e. £22.5 million over the two years on the Marine Renewable Proving Fund.

Warm Front Scheme

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the average time taken to pay grants under the Warm Front scheme. [44754]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Front scheme installs insulation and heating measures for eligible applicants up to a grant maximum of £3,500 or £6,000 where oil central heating is recommended. The grant is not paid directly to the applicant. The average time taken to install measures under the scheme is shown in the following table:

2010-11[1]

	Days
Average waiting times for insulation installations recorded in working days	18
Average waiting times for heating installations recorded in working days	40

[1]Up to 31 January 2011

Wind Power: Manufacturing Industries

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the first successful bidders for his Department's programme to support the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing at port sites. [44305]

Charles Hendry: The timing of any announcements will depend upon when decisions are made to award funding. The funding, which is available from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2015, requires an application to be made under the Grant for Business Investment scheme, which applies to assisted areas in England. Applications for support under this scheme are made on a confidential basis and the case is considered by the independent Industrial Development Advisory Board which will submit advice to DECC Ministers, who will make the decisions on funding.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many for bids for his Department's programme to support the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing at port sites his Department has received from each region of England to date; and what the monetary value is of each. [44306]

Charles Hendry: Applications for funds to support the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites in assisted areas in England must be made through the Grant for Business Investment scheme. Bids for support under this scheme are made on a confidential basis. Information on grant offers for sums greater than £75,000 is normally published following the payment of the first instalment of the grant, including the name and location of the recipient of the grant and the size of the grant offered.

HEALTH

Cancer Services: Women

19. **Jane Ellison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve NHS cancer services for women. [44497]

21. **Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve NHS cancer services for women. [44499]

22. **Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve NHS cancer services for women. [44500]

Paul Burstow: Our cancer strategy sets out plans to improve cancer services for all, including women. We are extending and modernising breast and cervical screening and improving access to testing for ovarian cancer. NICE are developing quality standards on breast and ovarian cancer, and we will collect data on secondary breast cancer.

Local Democratic Accountability

20. **Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he is making in introducing local democratic accountability for NHS services. [44498]

Paul Burstow: We have heard from a huge number of councils and their partners who are pressing ahead with establishing shadow health and well-being boards. Councillors, clinicians, and local communities have told us that by working together through the boards they can and will improve health and care outcomes for local communities.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of blue light emergency cases arising in the London borough of Bexley which were taken to *(a)* Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth hospital, Woolwich and *(c)* Darent Valley hospital, Dartford in the last three years for which figures are available. [44128]

Mr Simon Burns: Ambulance trusts are asked to report on the total number of emergency patient journeys to Type one and Type two accident and emergency (A&E) destinations, this information is reported via the KA34 as part of the annual ambulance data collection.

Type one A and E services are described as a consultant-led 24 hour service with full resuscitation facilities. Type two A and E services are a consultant-led single specialty accident and emergency service (e.g. ophthalmology, dental). However, the KA34 data collection will not provide a split in terms of which hospital patients were taken to.

The KA34 data collection can be viewed on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance

Departmental Domestic Visits

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has visited since May 2010. [44321]

Mr Simon Burns: The requested information is shown as follows:

Since May 2010, the Secretary of State for Health (Mr Lansley) has visited:

Leeds General Infirmary
Enfield Hospital
Bridlington and District Hospital
Scarborough District General Hospital
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
Burnley General Hospital
Alder Hey Children's Hospital
The Royal Marsden Foundation Trust
Milton Keynes Hospital Foundation
Stafford Hospital
Whiston Hospital, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Fairfield Independent Hospital
Liverpool Broadgreen University Hospital
Royal Sussex Country Hospital
Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital
Bristol Hospital
University College London Hospital
Glenfield Hospital, Leicester
Maidstone Hospital
Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup
Chelsea and Westminster
Kings College Hospital
Hillingdon Hospital
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Guys and St Thomas's Hospital
Sheffield Children's Hospital
St Bartholomew's Hospital
Colchester General Hospital

Since May 2010, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe) has visited:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Worcestershire Royal Hospital, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Barnet hospital, Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust
Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Since May 2010, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton) has visited:

University Hospital, Lewisham
Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Surrey County Hospital
Royal London-Barts and the London NHS Trust
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford
King's College Hospital Foundation Trust
Leatherhead Central Surrey Health Community Hospital

Since May 2010, the Minister of State (Paul Burstow) has visited:

St Charles Hospital, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust
The Royal Marsden Hospital
Northampton General Hospital
Broadmoor Hospital West London Mental Health NHS Trust
The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
The Royal Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Oldham Hospital
University Hospital Bristol NHS Foundation Trust

Since May 2010, the Minister of State (Mr Burns) has visited:

Newark Hospital, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
Great Ormond Street for Children NHS Trust
Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Guy's and St Thomas Hospital NHS Trust
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Ministers may have visited hospital premises to attend particular events but these were not specified hospital visits and therefore have not been included in this answer.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44[illegible]]

Mr Simon Burns: The information about the numbers of permanent departmental staff by grade who are displaced and in the redeployment pool as of 2 March 2011 is presented in the following table. The table also shows numbers who have been displaced and in the redeployment pool for over six months.

These staff are also able to access posts from within the wider civil service and have priority access to advertised roles on the civil service website, which is dedicated solely for surplus staff who are permanent civil servants.

Grade	*Total number of persons in the redeployment pool on 2 March 2011*	*Total number of displaced persons in the redeployment pool over six months*
SCS	[1]—	[1]—
Grade 6	[1]—	[1]—
Grade 7	[1]—	[1]—
Senior Executive Officer	[1]—	[1]—
Higher Executive Officer	[1]—	0

Grade	*Total number of persons in the redeployment pool on 2 March 2011*	*Total number of displaced persons in the redeployment pool over six months*
Executive Officer	[1]—	0
Administrative Officer	0	0
Total	20	8

[1] Five or less

Departmental Procurement

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to contract out any services from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [44325]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of its general aim to seek efficiency savings to release funding to front line services the Department is looking to achieve value for money in designing the delivery of its functions and operations. This includes reviewing options for outsourcing when evaluating best value.

Departmental Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulations sponsored by his Department have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* revoked since 24 November 2010. [44363]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following tables.

Statutory instruments introduced before Parliament for the period 24 November 2010 to 2 March 2011

SI title	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*	*SI number*	*Comment*
The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2010	18 November 2010	24 November 2010	1 January 2011	2010/2798	
The Flavourings in Food (England) Regulations 2010	23 November 2010	26 November 2010	20 January 2011	2010/2817	
The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010	24 November 2010	Laid in draft 26 July 2010 Final Publication 1 December 2010	1 January 2011	2010/2841	Statutory Instrument subject to the affirmative procedure Commons Debate 3 November 2010 Commons Approval 8 November 2010 Lords Debate and Approval 23 November 2010
The Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Amendment Order	16 December 2010	20 December 2010	17 January 2011	2010/2998	
The Lewisham Hospital National Health Service Trust (Change of Name) Order	7 December 2010	Not required to be laid (Published 10 December 2010)	1 January 2011	2010/2918	
The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	13 January 2011	Not required to be laid (Published 18 January 2011)	1 February 2011	2011/57	
The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	25 January 2011	28 January 2011	1 April 2011	2011/136	
The Food (Jelly Mini-Cups) (Emergency Control) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011	2 February 2011	8 February 2011	31 March 2011	2011/213	
The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	5 February 2011	8 February 2011	1 March 2011	2011/231	
The North West London Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2011	5 February 2011	9 February 2011	1 April 2011	2011/238	

Statutory instruments introduced before Parliament for the period 24 November 2010 to 2 March 2011

SI title	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*	*SI number*	*Comment*
The Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2011	7 February 2011	11 February 2011	1 April 2011	2011/253	
The Food Additives (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	7 February 2011	11 February 2011	31 March 2011	2011/258	
The National Health Service (Quality Accounts) Amendment Regulations 2011	8 February 2011	11 February 2011	1 April 2011	2011/269	
The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2011	11 February 2011	17 February 2011	17 March 2011	2011/402	
The Healthy Start Scheme and Welfare Food (Amendment) Regulations 2011	14 February 2011	17 February 2011	6 April 2011	2011/426	
The National Health Service (Functions of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts and Administration Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	23 February 2011	28 February 2011	1 April 2011	2011/503	
The Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Amounts) Amendment Regulations 2011	24 February 2011	2 March 2011	1 April 2011	2011/520	

Statutory instruments revoked between 24 November 2010 and 2 March 2011

SI revoked	*By SI*	*Made*	*Laid*	*Coming into force*	*SI number*
The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2009 (2009/3030)	The Health Service Branded Medicines (Control of Prices and Supply of Information) Amendment Regulations 2010	18 November 2010	24 November 2010	1 January 2011	2010/2798
The Flavourings in Food Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/ 1971) The Flavourings in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/1486)	The Flavourings in Food (England) Regulations 2010	23 November 2010	26 November 2010	20 January 2011	2010/2817
The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2001 (Articles 6 and 7 only) (SI 2001/1330)	The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	13 January 2011	Not required to be laid (published 18 January 2011)	1 February 2011	2011/57
The Food (Jelly Mini-Cups) (Emergency Control) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/3230)	The Food (Jelly Mini-Cups) (Emergency Control) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011	2 February 2011	8 February 2011	31 March 2011	2011/213
The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2801)	The Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) (England) Regulations 2011	11 February 2011	17 February 2011	17 March 2011	2011/402

Disability Aids

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many crutches were provided by the NHS in each of the last two years in each primary care trust area; what the cost was of such provision in each such year for each such trust; and how many crutches were returned after use in each such year in each such trust area. [44102]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44219]

Mr Simon Burns: A search of the Department's central procurements database shows that the Department received goods and services from Electoral Reform Services on only one occasion since 2005. An amount of £150 excluding VAT was receipted in the financial year 2008-09.

Food Standards Agency

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what roles and responsibilities were carried out by the Food Standards Agency prior to 20 July 2010; and which are now carried out by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(c)* the Food Standards Agency. [44687]

Anne Milton: On 20 July 2010, the Department announced plans to transfer some functions undertaken by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to either the Department of Health or to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Policy work for England on the following functions transferred on 1 October 2010 from the FSA to Department of Health:

lead on nutritional labelling and related European Union negotiations;

health claims, dietetic food and food supplements;

out of home calorie labelling;

reformulation to reduce salt, saturated fat and sugar levels in food and reducing portion size (including in catering);

nutrition surveys and nutrition research; and

scientific advice and secretariat to Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition.

Policy work for England on the following functions transferred on 20 July 2010 from the FSA to DEFRA:

food labelling, where this does not relate to food safety or nutrition;

food composition standards and labelling, where unrelated to food safety; and

leading on EU negotiations for all non-safety aspects of food labelling, except for nutrition.

The FSA retains a clearly defined departmental function on its core remit of food safety. It also retains responsibility for nutrition and labelling policy in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

General Practitioners

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for his policy on limiting management expenditure for GP consortia; and what plans he has for the future frequency of reviews of the limit. [44320]

Mr Simon Burns: Our view is that management is both an overhead on front-line services and a critical investment in ensuring that those services operate in an optimal manner, achieving better quality for patients and better value for the taxpayer. Administration costs have increased dramatically in recent years and cost controls will be essential in reducing the total cost of national health service administration from £5.1 billion in 2010-11 to £3.7 billion by 2014-15.

The expectation is that general practitioner consortia will have an allowance for running costs that could be in the range of £25 to £35 per head of population by 2014-15. We will not determine the exact amount until further work has been undertaken with pathfinders. This work will explore the optimal balance between ensuring sufficient investment in organisational sustainability with maximising resources for front-line services. Before this, during their development phase, the running costs will be locally agreed within the running cost envelope for each region.

General Practitioners: Kent

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress he has made on the introduction of GP commissioning in *(a)* Gravesham constituency and *(b)* West Kent. [44488]

Mr Simon Burns: Two groups within the national health service West Kent area have been awarded general practitioner consortia pathfinder status. The Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley pathfinder was announced as part of the first wave in December 2010 and the Maidstone and Malling pathfinder as part of the second wave in January 2011. These and all the pathfinders across the country are playing an increasing role in commissioning care for patients in their areas, and their learning will inform our future arrangements for commissioning.

Health: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of potential links between income inequality and *(a)* life expectancy, *(b)* infant mortality and *(c)* obesity. [44091]

Anne Milton: The Department commissioned Professor Sir Michael Marmot of University College London to undertake a strategic review of health inequalities post 2010. His review report—"Fair Society, Healthy Lives" which reported in February 2010—explored the links between health and income inequalities and the health outcomes around life expectancy, infant mortality and obesity.

The review noted that the relationship between income inequality and health outcomes is well established and differences in health outcomes are the result of wider social factors. Its assessment of the evidence showed that life expectancy across all groups has improved, but the gap between different social classes remains, rooted in disadvantage. Infant mortality rates are at an historic low level, but differences remain between occupational, social and ethnic groups. Obesity in adults has steadily increased in all social groups but there is a clear social gradient between more deprived and less deprived groups.

The Government accept the analysis in the review and have adopted the Marmot review's life course approach across the social determinants of health in the "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" (Cm 7985) White Paper, which has stressed the need to improve the health of the poorest fastest. Future progress on these health outcomes will be monitored through the Public Health Outcomes Framework, currently out for consultation.

A copy of the Public Health Outcomes Framework consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of potential links between income inequality and health inequalities. [44092]

Anne Milton: The Department commissioned Professor Sir Michael Marmot of University College London to undertake a strategic review of health inequalities post 2010. His review report—"Fair Society, Healthy Lives" which reported in February 2010—explored the links between health inequalities and the social determinants of health, including income inequality.

The review's assessment of the evidence shows that: the relationship between income inequality and health outcomes is well established; some groups are at a higher risk of having a low income, such as disabled adults and people with mental health problems; and, that income inequality is not just about material deprivation but about evidence of inequality in wider society.

The Government accept the analysis in the review and recognise that reducing health inequalities is a matter of fairness and social justice. The Government have adopted the Marmot review's life course approach across the social determinants of health in the "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" (Cm 7985) White Paper which has stressed the need to improve the health of the poorest fastest.

Health: Equality

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce health inequalities. [44590]

Anne Milton: The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', set out proposals for the establishment of an independent NHS Commissioning Board and a new NHS Outcomes Framework to help tackle health inequalities, promote equality, and act as a catalyst for driving up quality across all national health service services.

The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 proposes introducing new legal duties for the Secretary of State, the NHS Commissioning Board and general practice commissioning consortia to have regard to addressing health inequalities.

Action to tackle health inequalities is also at the centre of our approach to public health. The public health White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', emphasises the important role that Public Health England (the proposed new public health service) would have in tackling health inequalities. The public health budget would be ring-fenced and allocated to reflect relative population health needs, with a new "health premium" to promote action to reduce health inequalities.

The public health White Paper also responds to the report of the independent review, chaired by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, to explore the impact of the wider social determinants of health and advise on future action to reduce health inequalities in England. The White Paper adopts the review's life course framework, ensuring a focus for tackling the wider social determinants of health as part of a commitment to help people live longer, healthier, lives and improve the health of the poorest fastest.

Hospitals: Food

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to ensure that NHS hospital food meets the nutritional standards set by his Department for *(a)* all patients and *(b)* elderly patients; and if he will make a statement. [44428]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service organisations are responsible for compiling their own menus and making decisions about the food served to patients. In April 2010, nutritional care was made one of the key registration requirements for all organisations providing health care. As such, all hospitals are expected to adhere to the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) 'Essential standards of Quality and Safety'. This relates to all patients and there is no specific requirement regarding the elderly.

Alongside the regulations, the CQC has produced a range of 'outcomes', which indicate that an organisation is likely to be meeting the relevant regulation. In terms of nutritional needs, the outcome guidance states that people who use services should be supported to ensure adequate nutrition and hydration.

CQC assesses how trusts comply with these legal requirements and it has the power to impose a range of sanctions where breaches are found. At our request, CQC is also carrying out unannounced inspections led by experienced and senior nurses. We have asked CQC to publish a report on these inspections, which will depict the level of care being provided to older patients and the actions that hospitals can take to improve this care.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legal advice he received prior to removing the duty of the NHS to enforce the statutory maximum 18 week waiting time between GP referral and treatment. [44239]

Mr Simon Burns: No duty has been removed. The 'Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11', published on 21 June 2010, set out that the Department will no longer performance-manage the national health service against the 18 week maximum waiting times target.

However, as the 'NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12' sets out, patients continue to have rights to access services within maximum waiting times under the NHS constitution and commissioners should ensure that performance does not deteriorate and where possible improves during 2011-12.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* conducted into the effectiveness of introducing a dual purpose quadrivalent human papilloma virus vaccine against genital warts and cervical cancer. [44783]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considered the cost-effectiveness of a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme against cervical cancer, which included assessment of the impact of vaccination on genital warts. A summary of the evidence considered is set out in the JCVI statement on HPV vaccines that is published at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_094739.pdf

A copy of the JCVI statement has already been placed in the Library. The cost-effectiveness study produced by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) used by the JCVI was published in the *British Medical Journal* in July 2008:

www.bmj.com/content/337/bmj.a769.full

In 2010, the Department commissioned an update to the cost-effectiveness study. This study is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by the HPV vaccines against cancer and non-cancer diseases, including genital warts. The study, which has not yet been published by the HPA, will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV immunisation programme in 2011.

Influenza: Deaths

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many deaths resulting from H1N1 influenza in the winters of *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 were (i) attributed to H1N1 alone and (ii) involved other underlying symptoms; [44883]

(2) how many deaths were attributed to *(a)* seasonal and *(b)* H1N1 influenza in each year since 2001. [44884]

Anne Milton: The number of deaths attributed to seasonal influenza in each year since 2001 is given in table 1. These data are available on the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website[1]. To calculate this data, the HPA uses data on deaths collected by the Office for National Statistics to estimate the number of excess deaths during the flu (winter) season as a proxy for influenza related deaths, recognising that other factors (for example hypothermia) may also play a contributory role.

[1] This table is available on HPA website at:
www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/InfectiousDiseases/Influenza/1010EpidemiologicalreportofpandemicH1N12009inUK

Table 1: Excess deaths in winter

Season	*Excess*	*95% confidence interval*	*Total number of deaths/ season*	*% deaths in excess*
2000-01	747	478 - 1,015	383,805	0.2
2001-02	6,825	6,556 - 7,093	388,552	1.8
2002-03	6,392	6,124 - 6,661	386,946	1.7
2003-04	4,873	4,336 - 5,410	377,242	1.3
2004-05	1,860	1,592 - 2,129	372,259	0.5
2005-06	[1]—	0 - 0	361,910	0.0
2006-07	[1]—	0 - 0	318,775	0.0
2007-08	457	0 - 994	321,853	0.1
2008-09	10,147	9,878 - 10,588	327,334	3.1
Summer 2009	[1]—	0 - 13	170,231	0.0
2009-10	3,261	2,993 - 3,530	315,931	1.0

[1] No excess detected

In the United Kingdom, cases of the H1N1 "swine flu" have occurred from April 2009 to May 2010 (the swine flu pandemic period) and the period May 2010 onwards including winter 2010-11. Deaths associated with this virus during these periods are summarised in table 2.

Table 2: Deaths associated with the H1N1 "swine flu" virus

Time period	*Deaths associated with swine flu virus*	*Reference*
Swine flu pandemic (April 2009 to May 2010)	A total of 474 deaths with confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (either laboratory confirmed or with mention on the death certificate) were reported in the United Kingdom up to 15 April 2010 (359 in England, 69 in Scotland, 18 in Northern Ireland and 28 in Wales).	Epidemiological report of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the UK: www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1284475321350
May 2010 to 2011 (up to 23 February 2011)	Further epidemiological information on cases is available on 499 of the 523 fatal laboratory confirmed influenza cases from across the UK reported to the HPA, including 400 cases from England. 461 (92%) of these 499 cases were associated with H1N1 (2009).	HPA Weekly National Influenza Report Summary of UK surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory illnesses www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1296681716703

Two parallel systems for collecting information on individual fatal cases operated during the swine flu pandemic period, one by the chief medical officer's (CMO's) office and the other by the HPA. The reports from the two systems were reconciled. CMO's confidential inquiry involved reporting of confirmed fatal cases through the NHS. The HPA's system involved identification of deaths through reconciliation of data from a range of surveillance sources (e.g. influenza laboratory reports, death certificates, reports from local HPA teams).

Since May 2010, the ascertainment of fatal influenza cases has been similar to the HPA approach used during the pandemic.

The HPA have further information on 446 of the fatal cases due to the H1N1 "swine flu" virus. This further information shows that 316 of the 446 cases (71%) were in a CMO-defined clinical risk group.

National Blood Service

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* departmental officials have had on the future of the National Blood Service since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [44322]

Anne Milton: Ministers and officials discussed and agreed the recommendations for the future of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), of which the National Blood Service is part, as set out in the report of the arm's length bodies review (July 2010). The report has already been placed in the Library.

It was agreed that NHSBT would stay within the arm's length body sector but that an in-depth review would be commissioned into opportunities to make it more commercially effective. Representatives from relevant Department policy teams, the Welsh Assembly Government and NHSBT are contributing to the review. The review, which is at an early stage, will not consider changes to any functions or services that could risk destabilising the current national donor system, particularly the interface with donors. Any possible options that are identified will be considered very carefully before a final decision is made by Ministers.

NHS: Private Sector

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of emergency treatment required by patients being treated in private hospitals in the last 24 months; and how much of this has been recouped by the NHS to date. [44380]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has neither an estimate nor relevant information. It would be the responsibility of local national health service bodies to seek to recoup any costs arising from patients' prior treatment in another setting.

Nutrition: Health Services

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what nutritional training primary care practitioners receive; and what role his Department plays in providing information in respect of best practice nutritional advice to primary care practitioners. [44413]

Anne Milton: The content of curriculum and quality and standard of training for health care professions is the responsibility of the appropriate professional regulatory body. However, the Department has supported the development of post-graduate training and a post-graduate Diploma in Paediatric Nutrition for medical practitioners, including general practitioners, which is currently being run by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. Dieticians and nurses, in particular, receive nutritional training and are actively involved in setting and monitoring standards of nutritional care. Training in nutrition is delivered during both pre and post registration nursing education.

It is also for local national health service organisations to devise their own nutrition policies and procedures to meet local needs. We have provided guidance nationally on food and drink through the Essence of Care benchmarking programme, together with information and guidance to Health Professionals on Maternal and Child Health, Healthy Start, the 5 A DAY Programme and the Obesity Care Pathway.

Obesity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the relative ranking of the UK in international comparator tables on levels of obesity. [44599]

Anne Milton: In 2010 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ranked the United Kingdom the fourth in the world for obesity prevalence after the United States of America, Mexico, and New Zealand. Data on obesity prevalence can be found in OECD Health Data 2010, this information is available at:

www.oecd.org/document/16/
0,3746,en_2649_34631_2085200_1_1_1_1,00.html

Out-of-Area Treatment

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what protocols govern the funding of out-of-area treatments for NHS patients. [44902]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the current commissioning arrangements, "Who Pays? Establishing the Responsible Commissioner" sets out the principles for determining which primary care trust would be responsible for funding the treatment of patients. A copy has been placed in the Library.

"Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out our proposals for transforming the quality of decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices supported by an independent NHS Commissioning Board. A copy has already been placed in the Library. We propose that GP Consortia will be the responsible commissioner for any patients registered with their constituent practices.

Patients

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of statutory rights for patients; and if he will make a statement. [44319]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are upholding the NHS constitution, which sets out legal rights for patients, public and staff. Under the Health Act 2009, all providers and commissioners of national health service-funded services are required to have regard to the constitution in performing their functions; the current Health and Social Care Bill would extend this duty to the new NHS Commissioning Board and commissioning consortia.

Pregnant Women: Stress

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of maternal stress levels during pregnancy on the mental health of (i) the foetus and (ii) the subsequent (A) infant and (B) adult. [44407]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is a non-departmental public body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The MRC supports a broad portfolio of research relating to maternal health and its impact on children including a number of research projects, which aim to investigate the effects of maternal stress in pregnancy. Further information can be found on the MRC's online research portfolio at:

www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

In addition, the MRC supports a number of population-based cohort studies that provide the infrastructure to enable important questions about the impact of maternal health to be addressed.

Social Services

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of local authorities which *(a)* have changed their eligibility criteria for social care in 2010-11 and *(b)* are planning to do so in 2011-12. [44492]

Paul Burstow: Councils are currently setting their budgets for 2011-12. The Government have committed an extra £530 million through the local government formula grant and £648 million in direct cash support from the national health service for social care, as well as £150 million for re-ablement. It is for councils to make decisions about eligibility and access to social care.

Tobacco

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health effects on young people of second hand smoke in confined spaces; and whether his Department plans to take steps to protect children from exposure to second hand smoke in cars; [44921]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the effects on tobacco smuggling of point of sale display bans; and when he plans to take a decision on the implementation of a tobacco display ban; [44922]

(3) with reference to the Public Health White Paper, what consideration he has given to the recommendations of the Inquiry on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of tobacco control by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health; and if he will make a statement; [44923]

(4) whether his Department has made an assessment of the health effects of the use of smokeless tobacco products in the south Asian community; whether he plans to make provision in respect of such effects in the forthcoming tobacco control plan; and if he will make a statement. [44927]

Anne Milton: We announced in the Public Health White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England", published on 30 November 2010, that we would be publishing a new Tobacco Control Plan. This will give details of how the Government will set about reducing the morbidity and mortality that result from smoking, niche tobacco use and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke.

Alongside the Tobacco Control Plan, we will publish a summary of the research evidence into the impact of smokefree legislation in England, including the health effects of secondhand smoke in confined spaces.

The Tobacco Control Plan will be informed by all relevant available research evidence, including the health effects of secondhand tobacco smoke on young people, tobacco smuggling and use of smokeless tobacco products. It will also take into account the recommendations of the Inquiry on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of tobacco control by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Careers Advice

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to provide independent and impartial careers guidance for pupils aged 13 to 16 years as part of his proposals for an all-age careers service. [36923]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

Through the Education Bill, schools will be placed under a duty to secure access to independent, impartial careers guidance for all pupils aged 13 to 16, and will be free to decide how to do so based on the needs of their pupils. This recognises the important role of schools in ensuring their pupils have access to appropriate support, working in partnership with expert careers advisers.

Citizens Advice Bureaux and Law Centres: Closures

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* citizens advice bureaux and *(b)* law centres likely to close in (i) Bolton, (ii) Greater Manchester and (iii) England as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [44845]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has a wider interest in the network of local citizens advice bureaux (CAB), but funding is a matter for local authorities, not BIS. BIS has no locus over the future of law centres, on which the Ministry of Justice lead.

The Government are aware that the local authority in Bolton has no anticipated plans to cut funding to Bolton CAB. As far as the rest of Greater Manchester is concerned a large number of local authorities have yet to finalise their budgets but both Bury and Tameside bureaux are not anticipating any cut in funding. Rochdale and Oldham local authorities are looking at moving to a commissioning process and bureaux in those areas will have the opportunity to bid for funding on that basis.

The Government do not as yet have a full picture of funding of bureaux across England as many local authorities have yet to decide on budgets but BIS is working closely with Citizens Advice, the umbrella body, to assess the full impact.

Employment: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Commission Communication on An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment, COM(2010) 682 final; what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of implementing each measure recommended in the Communication; and whether the implementation of any measure recommended in the Communication would involve a transfer of powers from the UK to the EU. [44417]

Mr Davey: The EU New Skills and Jobs agenda does not contain any specific legislative measures, but presents a work programme in the areas of skills and employment. Details of this are set out in the Explanatory Memorandum submitted on 16 December. The Government have made clear that national competence and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality must be respected. Should specific proposals emerge on skills and employment, we will work to ensure this is the case and that proposals are accompanied by a full impact assessment.

Financial Services: Low Incomes

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the financial services industry on improving access to work opportunities for people from low-income backgrounds; and if he will make a statement. [43494]

Mr Hayes: The Minister for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts), meets regularly with representatives of the financial services industry and related professional bodies in a variety of forums, including the Graduate Employer's Forum and the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum (which he chairs), encouraging them to take action to widen access to professional careers.

Late last year, he met a representative of the New City Initiative, a group of companies in the independent asset management sector, to discuss their proposal to provide work placements for undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds. We welcome this proposal and my officials have been discussing with the New City Initiative ways of supporting it.

And as part of the Growth Review, my officials have met a range of representatives from the professional and business services sector. The Government's commitment to driving social mobility has formed part of those discussions.

Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 981W, on fossil fuels, what definition of clean fossil fuel energy production his Department uses. [43329]

Mr Davey: The definition used by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is that 'dirty' fossil fuel power generation means unabated coal-fired power stations. It would therefore consider any other form of fossil fuel power generation to be clean.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 568W, on higher education: admissions, when he plans to provide further information about the National Scholarship Scheme. [44978]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 568W. More detailed operational guidance to help institutions develop their own arrangements will be available shortly from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent reports he has received on incidents of Israeli students at universities in *(a)* London and *(b)* England being targeted by Islamic extremists; and if he will make a statement; [41710]

(2) what recent *(a)* meetings he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from (i) the Israeli ambassador to Great Britain and (ii) the Government of Israel on (A) the security of Israeli students attending university in the United Kingdom, (B) anti-Semitism against Israeli students on campus and (C) the targeting of Israeli students by Islamic extremists; and if he will make a statement. [41711]

Mr Willetts: I have received no reports of incidents of Israeli students attending universities in London, or more widely in England, being targeted by Islamic extremists. I have also had no formal representations from, or held meetings with, the Israeli Government or Israeli ambassador to Great Britain about these issues.

However, the broader issue of the treatment of Jewish students was one of a number of subjects I discussed with Alon Roth-Snir, the deputy ambassador of Israel to the UK, at a recent dinner engagement on UK-Israel trade relations. I have also discussed this matter, the experiences of Jewish students in the UK, at a meeting held last October with John Mann MP, the Community Security Trust, the Union of Jewish Students, Universities UK and the Equality Challenge Unit.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and has supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

Higher Education: Business

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage partnerships between universities and businesses; and if he will make a statement. [44987]

Mr Willetts: Government have a range of measures to encourage partnerships between universities and businesses including: encouraging universities through Research Council's Pathways to Impact; HEFCE's Research Excellence Framework and Higher Education Innovation Funding; and ongoing collaboration between the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board. The Research Councils will also work closely with the TSB providing support for the science that will underpin the Technology Innovation Centres.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Office for Budget Responsibility on the effects on economic forecasts of average university tuition fee levels exceeding £7,500; and if he will make a statement. [44714]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* For their November Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the Office for Budget Responsibility scrutinised and certified the estimates for loan outlay provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. This involved discussion at official level about the key assumptions behind loan outlay, including the level of average fees charged; the loan take-up rate; and the growth in overall student numbers.

Higher Education: Finance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department holds information on the provenance of major donations to universities in England; and if he will make a statement. [44120]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold information on the provenance of major donations to universities in England.

Universities are autonomous institutions. As a charity, a university will set its own standards for the acceptance of donations subject to guidance from the Charity Commission.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely change in the level of income from overseas students for each *(a)* university and *(b)* further education college as a result of changes to immigration rules in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [44985]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The impact assessment and results of the consultation will be published in due course.

Institute for Learning

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Institute for Learning shares information with his Department on the take-up of continuing professional development by staff employed in further education. [44186]

Mr Hayes: The Institute for Learning (IfL) provides this Department with information about the take-up of continuing professional development (CPD) by further education staff teaching staff. IfL published an annual a review of CPD; the latest one covering 2009-10 is now available.

Intellectual Property: Reform

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with organisations on the reform of intellectual property law in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [44874]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Ministers and officials within the Department have regular and frequent discussions with a large number of organisations seeking changes, both major and minor, to intellectual property law.

Internet: Regulation

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with the Office of Fair Trading its policy on search neutrality on the internet. [44903]

Mr Davey: Competition authorities' responsibilities are about protecting competition and consumer interests with regard to the provision and use of internet search facilities. As a result of a number of complaints, the European Commission announced on 30 November 2010, that it had initiated three separate antitrust investigations into competing vertical search service providers covering the whole of the EU. These investigations are a matter solely for the European Commission. The Commission's announcements can be found at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm?fuseaction=dsp_result

Job Creation: North West England

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on job creation and apprenticeships in the North West; and if he will make a statement. [43569]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* I recently met colleges and employers in the North West. I discussed apprenticeships among other subjects when I visited the region earlier this year.

The primary objective of the Apprenticeships Programme is skills training rather than job creation, but many employers do use apprenticeships as a recruitment tool.

Employers in the North West region offer more apprenticeship places than any other English region. Over 47,000 people started an apprenticeship in the North West in 2009/10, an increase of over 10,000 places compared with 2008/09.

As a result of activity during apprenticeships week, which took place in February, the North West Apprenticeship Ambassador Network now has 33 members. The network, which is managed by the National Apprenticeship Service is an elite team of business leaders who act as advocates for apprenticeships in the region.

There were also a number of announcements about activity in the North West during apprenticeships week. For example, Jaguar Land Rover announced a new World Class Manufacturing Programme to take on 1,500 apprentices in their Halewood plant on Merseyside.

Neurology

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Biological Sciences Research Council gave to neuroscience research in each of the last five years; and how much it plans to give in each of the next five years. [44596]

Mr Willetts: The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is the leading funding agency for academic research in the non-clinical life sciences in the UK. BBSRC is a non-departmental public body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The total annual spend for BBSRC research relevant to neuroscience for the past five years is detailed in the following table.

BBSRC funding for research relevant to neuroscience[1]

	Total annual spend (£ million)
2005/06	28.3
2006/07	31.8
2007/08	35.2
2008/09	39.5
2009/10	40.4

[1] Includes funding through the following mechanisms: Responsive Mode, Initiatives, Fellowships to HEIs and BBSRC Institutes and Core Strategic Funding to BBSRC institutes.

BBSRC does not have fixed allocations for neuroscience funding. Future funding of neuroscience research by BBSRC is dependent on the quality and strategic relevance of grant applications. Funding will be allocated over the next four years in relation to relevance to BBSRC's strategic priorities and BBSRC's four-year spending review settlement. As currently only a small part of neuroscience is within BBSRC's strategic priorities, it is likely that there will be a reduction in BBSRC funding over the next spending review period for neuroscience research that is outside our strategic priorities. An estimate, not an allocation, which is all that is possible at this stage until BBSRC has received applications for funding and dependent on their relevance and quality, is that this might amount to a reduction of £4 million/year, i.e. total neuroscience funding might run at approximately £36 million/year.

Older Workers: Termination of Employment

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess recent trends in termination of employment of *(a)* employees in the public sector and *(b)* employees in the private sector over the age of 65 prior to the removal of the default retirement age. [44240]

Mr Davey: Overall redundancies have varied over the past 15 years and are higher in recessions. The level of total redundancies ranges from 91,000 in the final quarter of 2008 to 39,000 in the last quarter of 2010.

For the over-65s, redundancies are not a major feature for either the public or private sectors. In the labour force survey, the number of redundancies in any one year is always below a weighted count of 10,000, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) conventional threshold for statistical publication.

In general, employment of older workers has increased by more than the national average in recent years. The ONS has recently provided a report on this at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=2648

Part-time Education: Student Numbers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans to regulate the number of part-time students; and if he will make a statement. [44577]

Mr Willetts: The Government only seek to control student numbers in order to manage overall public spending. We are currently considering future systems to manage student support costs under the new arrangements. A decision on the most appropriate type of cost control, including in respect of part-time students, will be considered in consultation following the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Regional Development Agencies

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to abolish regional development agencies sooner than currently planned. [43726]

Mr Prisk: Final closure is subject to parliamentary consideration of the Public Bodies Bill, and associated secondary legislation. Subject to these considerations we expect the regional development agencies to be closed by March 2012 or as soon as is practical after this.

Regional Growth Fund

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget is for the Regional Growth Fund for Yorkshire for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [44532]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £1.4 billion fund that will operate for three years from 2011 to 2014. The RGF is a challenge fund and not ring-fenced or pre-allocated to any area although the fund will operate in England only.

Students: Finance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many undergraduate students resident in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England have declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [44202]

Mr Willetts: The number of undergraduate students who have declared themselves bankrupt is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of students in England who have student loans and who have notified the Student Loans Company (SLC) of their bankruptcy while studying. However, the table does not include students who have not applied for student finance and students who have student loans but who have not notified the SLC that they are bankrupt. Student loans have been excluded from a borrower's bankruptcy debts since 2004.

Students who have notified SLC of bankruptcy while studying

Financial year	Students[1]
1997-98	5
1998-99	10
1999-00	10
2000-01	5
2001-02	15
2002-03	20
2003-04	70
2004-05[2]	65
2005-06[2]	35
2006-07[2]	25
2007-08[2]	20
2008-09[2]	10

[1] English domiciled students with student loans who have notified SLC of their bankruptcy while studying. Figures may include postgraduate ITT students. As the table covers bankruptcies notified to SLC, figures could change slightly in future If further bankruptcies are notified, especially for the most recent years. Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Since 2004 student loans are no longer written-off due to bankruptcy. From that time the number of students notifying the SLC of their bankruptcy has declined.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Figures for Suffolk and the East of England cannot be supplied as they are so small as to potentially identify individuals.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he gave to introducing bursaries rather than tuition fee remission for students from low-income backgrounds attending university under the National Scholarship Scheme. [44972]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 568W.

Vinyl Acetate

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will discuss with his EU counterparts provisional measures to prevent the dumping of imports of vinyl acetate originating from the US; [44533]

(2) whether his Department plans to request to be heard by the European Commission investigation services as part of the investigation into imports of vinyl acetate originating from the US; [44534]

(3) what plans he has to contribute to the European Commission's investigation into the alleged dumping of vinyl acetate from the US; [44564]

(4) what recent representations he has received on the alleged dumping of vinyl acetate from the US into the European market; and if he will make a statement; [44565]

(5) whether he has made an assessment of the effects on British industry of alleged dumping of vinyl acetate from the US in Europe; and if he will make a statement. [44568]

Mr Davey: The European Commission investigation into alleged dumping of imports of vinyl acetate from the US is at an early stage having been initiated on 4 December 2010. We are satisfied that there was a prima facie case of alleged dumping requiring the European Commission to initiate the investigation. The Government judges each anti-dumping case on its own merits based on an economic analysis of the results of the Commission's investigation and representations received from relevant interests (e.g. producers, users and others). To date one meeting has been held with INEOS Oxide Ltd, a UK producer and the complainant in this case. As in all anti-dumping cases we will discuss this case with the Commission and other member states as appropriate. The Commission will in any event consult all member states through the Anti-Dumping Committee before any measures are taken.

EDUCATION

Boarding Schools

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department provides to education providers in the state boarding school sector; and if he will make a statement. [24536]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* The Government support state boarding schools in England and want to see the sector continue to thrive. All state boarding schools receive enhanced levels of capital formula funding based on the number of boarding pupils they have.

There are currently three academies developing boarding provision which are all due to open in September 2011. These are:

Harefield Academy in Hillingdon, London—50 boarders
Priory LSST Academy in Lincolnshire—60 (post 16) boarders
Wellington Academy in Wiltshire—100 boarders

There are 34 state boarding schools in England (31 are maintained schools, one is an academy and two are Sixth Forms).

Children in Care

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many looked after children in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* type of placement were absent for more that 24 hours from their agreed placement in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [39726]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 February 2011]:* Information on the number of looked after children in each local authority area who were absent for more than 24 hours from their agreed placement in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

Information on the number of looked after children by type of placement who were absent for more than 24 hours from their agreed placement in each of the last three years can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Children looked after during the year ending 31 March who were missing from their agreed placement[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] Years ending: 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number

	2008	2009	2010
England	1,100	1,000	920

Children looked after during the year ending 31 March who were missing from their agreed placement[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] Years ending: 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
North East	20	20	10
Darlington	x	x	x
Durham	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	x
Hartlepool	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	0	0	x
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	x
North Tyneside	x	0	0
Northumberland	x	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0
South Tyneside	0	x	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0
Sunderland	15	15	10
North West	130	120	120
Blackburn with Darwen	x	0	x
Blackpool	0	0	0
Bolton	30	30	30
Bury	x	x	x
Cheshire[6]	0	0	n/a
Cheshire East[6]	n/a	0	x
Cheshire West and Chester[6]	n/a	0	x
Cumbria	x	0	x
Halton	x	0	x
Knowsley	0	0	0
Lancashire	x	x	0
Liverpool	15	15	15
Manchester	10	5	x
Oldham	5	x	x
Rochdale	0	0	0
Salford	x	0	x
Sefton	5	10	15
St Helens	0	0	0
Stockport	15	10	20
Tameside	10	10	0
Trafford	15	10	x
Warrington	5	5	x
Wigan	x	5	x
Wirral	x	x	x
Yorkshire and the Humber	70	80	70
Barnsley	x	x	0
Bradford	10	5	10
Calderdale	0	0	x
Don caster	x	5	x
East Riding of Yorkshire	x	x	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	0	0	0
Kirklees	0	0	0
Leeds	15	15	20
North East Lincolnshire	5	5	x
North Lincolnshire	x	x	0
North Yorkshire	x	x	0
Rotherham	25	20	10
Sheffield	5	x	10

Children looked after during the year ending 31 March who were missing from their agreed placement[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] Years ending: 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Wakefield	x	5	5
York	0	10	x
East Midlands	20	30	20
Derby	x	x	x
Derbyshire	x	x	x
Leicester	x	5	x
Leicestershire	x	x	x
Lincolnshire	x	x	x
Northamptonshire	x	10	10
Nottingham	x	5	5
Nottinghamshire	x	x	0
Rutland	0	0	0
West Midlands	130	120	100
Birmingham	10	10	20
Coventry	10	10	5
Dudley	10	x	x
Herefordshire	x	0	0
Sandwell	0	0	x
Shropshire	0	x	0
Solihull	15	15	10
Staffordshire	15	15	x
Stoke-on-Trent	30	20	20
Telford and Wrekin	x	x	x
Walsall	20	15	10
Warwickshire	10	10	10
Wolverhampton	10	5	x
Worcestershire	x	x	15
East of England	70	80	60
Bedfordshire[6]	0	n/a	n/a
Bedford Borough[6]	n/a	0	0
Central Bedfordshire[6]	n/a	0	x
Cambridgeshire	x	x	0
Essex	35	40	15
Hertfordshire	10	25	35
Luton	10	5	x
Norfolk	x	x	0
Peterborough	x	x	x
Southend-on-Sea	5	x	x
Suffolk	0	x	x
Thurrock	x	x	x
London	380	330	300
Inner London	150	130	100
Camden	x	x	x
City of London	x	0	0
Hackney	x	x	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	x	x	0
Haringey	20	30	30
Islington	x	5	x
Kensington and Chelsea	25	20	15
Lambeth	25	25	20
Lewisham	x	x	5
Newham	20	15	5
Southwark	10	10	10

Children looked after during the year ending 31 March who were missing from their agreed placement[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] Years ending: 31 March 2008 to 2010. Coverage: England

Number

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Tower Hamlets	5	x	x
Wandsworth	5	x	x
Westminster	20	10	x
Outer London	240	200	200
Barking and Dagenham	25	20	15
Barnet	10	x	x
Bexley	5	x	x
Brent	35	30	20
Bromley	0	15	15
Croydon	10	x	25
Ealing	x	5	x
Enfield	15	10	15
Greenwich	10	10	20
Harrow	x	10	10
Havering	10	x	10
Hillingdon	55	35	25
Hounslow	10	15	20
Kingston Upon Thames	x	x	0
Merton	5	5	x
Redbridge	10	10	x
Richmond Upon Thames	x	x	0
Sutton	15	5	10
Waltham Forest	10	5	x
South East	180	160	140
Bracknell Forest	x	x	x
Brighton and Hove	x	x	10
Buckinghamshire	x	x	x
East Sussex	x	0	0
Hampshire	50	45	45
Isle of Wight	x	x	x
Kent	25	10	x
Medway Towns	x	x	x
Milton Keynes	10	x	x
Oxfordshire	x	5	x
Portsmouth	x	x	x
Reading	0	0	0
Slough	0	10	X
Southampton	35	25	15
Surrey	40	45	40
West Berkshire	0	x	0
West Sussex	x	x	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	x	5
Wokingham	x	x	0
South West	80	90	90
Bath and North East Somerset	x	x	x
Bournemouth	x	x	0
Bristol, City of	x	10	10
Cornwall	20	25	20
Devon	15	x	15
Dorset	x	x	0
Gloucestershire	x	x	x
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
North Somerset	5	10	15
Plymouth	15	10	15
Poole	x	x	x
Somerset	x	0	0
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Swindon	x	0	0
Torbay	10	10	5
Wiltshire	x	x	x

x = Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
n/a = Not available

[1] England totals have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Children who were missing on more than one occasion during the year have been counted once.

[5] Includes looked after children who were missing from care for a period of more than 24 hours.

[6] In 2009, Cheshire local authority split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford borough and Central Bedfordshire.

Source:
SSDA903

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost was of looking after a child in care in the last year for which figures are available. [41698]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Returns from local authorities indicate that their expenditure on looked after children in 2009-10 was some £2,888 million. This supported around 80,000 children who were in care for some or all of that year. This would equate to an average expenditure of £36,000 per child. However the cost will vary considerably between individual children.

Children: Day Care

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with representatives of playgroups and other providers of early years care on their ability to provide 15 hours free care for the statutory amount they are paid; if he will assess the merits of enabling them to charge top-up fees from parents to cover additional costs; and if he will make a statement. [15342]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* Good quality early education helps tackle disadvantage and improve children's life chances. We announced in the spending review that funding has been protected so that all three and four-year-olds will continue to receive 15 hours per week of free nursery education, delivered more flexibly, and that this will be extended to every disadvantaged two-year-old from 2013.

Fairness is at the heart of the Government's agenda. Local authorities have a statutory duty—under section 7 of the Childcare Act—to secure nursery places free of charge, effectively prohibiting top-up fees. This ensures that there are no barriers to accessing the benefits of nursery education for all children, but particularly the most disadvantaged. Parents are free to purchase additional hours and services outside of the hours for which providers receive funding from local authorities.

Many providers up and down the country are offering an excellent service to parents and their children within existing funding levels. The Government are listening to the views of early years providers and their representative bodies concerning funding issues. The Government are seeking to improve the efficiency with which funding is distributed to providers, through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) reforms, as well as reducing bureaucratic burdens on providers who deliver free nursery education. Many providers will also be benefiting from other support that local authorities provide for early learning and care. Providers will want to take into account this whole package of support before deciding whether delivering free places fits with their business model.

Children: Separated People

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has held with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential effects on levels of child poverty of the rules concerning eligibility to child and other benefits for separated parents with joint custody arrangements. [34971]

Sarah Teather: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend, has frequent discussions with Ministers about all aspects of his portfolio.

Children: Solvents

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many individuals aged under 18 years old were treated for the effects of solvent abuse in each of the last five years. [38072]

Sarah Teather: The number of young people aged under 18 who accessed specialist support, primarily for solvent misuse, in each of the past five years is as follows:

2005-06: 210
2006-07: 301
2007-08: 305
2008-09: 284
2009-10: 274.

In each year this represented 1% of the total number of young people under 18 accessing specialist services for substance misuse.

Source:

Substance Misuse Amongst Young People 2009 - 10, National Treatment Agency.

Children's Centres: Disadvantaged

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that vulnerable families living in areas not identified as disadvantaged have access to a children's centre. [39461]

Sarah Teather: Sure Start children's centres are at the heart of the Government's vision for early intervention.

The Government have included enough funding within the early intervention grant to maintain the national network of children's centres and local authorities have a statutory duty to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and to secure sufficient centre provision to meet local need so far as is reasonably practical. We have provided important new investment in 4,200 additional health visitors who will play a key role in supporting those families most in need.

Children's Centres: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of Sure Start centres which will no longer employ both a qualified teacher and a staff member with early years professional status following the phasing out of this requirement. [31012]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* The Department for Education does not collect this data. Decisions on staffing in Sure Start Children's Centres are a matter for local discretion.

We have removed the overly prescriptive requirement for all Sure Start Children's Centres in the most disadvantaged areas to provide full day care. We have also removed the associated requirement that this provision be delivered by both a Qualified Teacher (QT) and an Early Years Professional (EYP), so that children's centres may chose to employ just one of a QT or an EYP.

In the past, children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas were required to provide full day care, i.e. 10 hours a day, five days a week, for 48 weeks a year. However, the National Audit Office Memorandum for the Children, Schools and Families Committee, December 2009, suggested that in some areas, when demand for full day care is low, money intended for other Sure Start services—like family support and outreach to vulnerable families—is subsidising the provision of early education and care.

We expect children's centres to continue to play a critical role in early education and care, including providing and encouraging take-up of free nursery education for two, three, and four-year-olds and additional hours where there is demand. Furthermore, we know the quality of early education is a key driver of good outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children. So, where children's centres offer early education, it is crucial that this is of high quality.

The Government remain committed to investing in the quality of the early education and child care workforce, and will develop proposals to support this later this year. The recent local authority and school funding settlement provides for the ongoing support and development of the workforce. Continued national investment in the early years workforce includes the funding of places on the Early Years Professional Status programme and the New Leaders in Early Years programme which began in November.

College of Social Work

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to the Social Care Institute for Excellence since the announcement of the College of Social Work; and how much funding he has allocated to the Social Care Institute for Excellence for each of the next five years. [41233]

Tim Loughton: The Social Care Institute for Excellence has been asked to facilitate the establishment of the College of Social Work, providing administrative support and expertise in a developmental phase of two years. The Department of Health has made £2.5 million available for this work. The Department of Education has committed to match this funding and officials are in discussions as to the appropriate time to make funds available to meet the emerging business development plan.

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children Review

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that the Bailey review on the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood considers the role of the family. [32762]

Sarah Teather: Reg Bailey's review is independent of Government. However, the terms of reference for the review make clear that Mr Bailey's recommendations should be informed by the views of parents. Mr Bailey has also been asked to examine how the pressures on children to grow up too quickly also create barriers to parents exercising their responsibility in raising their children.

Curriculum: Religion

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the place of religious education in the national curriculum. [39044]

Mr Gibb: Religious education RE is a statutory part of the basic curriculum of maintained schools in England, but not a part of the national curriculum. This means that there are no statutory national programmes of study, attainment targets or assessment arrangements. However, the locally agreed syllabus, which is designed by standing advisory councils on religious education (SACRE) and adopted by the local authority, is statutory, and that means that local authorities must provide such a syllabus and that maintained schools must follow it. Schools with a religious character can either follow the locally agreed syllabus, or use a syllabus which has been agreed by their governing body. It is the responsibility of the head teacher, governors and local authorities (LAs) to make the necessary provisions for RE in all maintained schools.

The Government do not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis for RE.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36278]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not maintain a central record of all single tenders and a complete answer could be provided only at disproportionate costs. However, from the information we do hold centrally, I can provide the following list of single tenders:

Single tenders below the OJEU threshold

Contractor	*Description of contract*
Dame Clare Tickell	Independent Chair of the Early Years Foundation Stage Review
Wiggins LLP	Teachers TV Legal Advice
Sean Feeney	Project Director of the Capital Review
Dr John Dunford	Independent Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner
Professor Alison Wolf	Review of Vocation Education
General Social Care Council	Social Work Reform Programme—Rationalising Standards and Practice Learning Review
Dr David Lane	Consultancy Support to the Munro Review
Capgemini	Manage, Operate and Facilitate a Major Event for the Department's Education Standards and Infrastructure and Funding Directorates, and external Partners
Lewis Live	Free Schools Conference
PWC	Review of finance and procurement end to end processes (Pro bono)
Owen Education	Education Advisers for Free Schools and Academies
Personal Development Point Ltd	National Citizen Service—independent evaluator
Cap Gemini	Transfer system on to supported systems register

Single tenders over the EU threshold

Contractor	*Description of contract*	*Value (£)*
Professor Dylan Wiliam, Professor Andrew Pollard and Professor Mary James	National Curriculum Review: Appointment of an Expert Panel	175,000
PA Consulting	Strategic Partnering service to provide client side programme delivery capability for the ContactPoint and eCAF Projects	1,896,000
WS Atkins	Strategic Partnering service to provide client side programme delivery capability for ContactPoint and eCAF Projects. In addition a service-based requirement to co-ordinate implementation across the regions	394,416
UCAS	A-level helpline	100,000
MITIE	Technical Facilities Management	839,455
NPS and Atkins	Technical advice for Academies	1 million
Cap Gemini	Schools Data Collect System (code upgrade)	250,000
Cap Gemini	National Pupil Database	384,000
Cap Gemini	Annual upgrade to Children Looked After (CLA) system	179,974
Cap Gemini	Information Work Place (IWP). Development and preparation for potential G-Cloud Service	708,870
Cap Gemini	Children in Need (collect development and testing)	148,000
Cap Gemini	Annual Census Collection (collect Schools Work Force)	230,000
Cap Gemini	Information Work Place (IWP—support)	350,000
Cap Gemini	Further development E channels external web content for education sector	696,000
Cap Gemini	Annual Census Collection	202,845

Single tenders over the EU threshold

Contractor	Description of contract	Value (£)
RM Data Solutions	National Pupil Database Achievement and Attainment Tables	8.3 million

Education

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) with reference to page 22 of his Department's Business Plan 2011-2015, what his policy is on the publication of information on readiness to progress to next stage of schooling by *(a)* school, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* nationally for children aged five years; and if he will make a statement; [42968]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of publication of information on readiness to progress to next stage of schooling by *(a)* school, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* nationally for children aged five years on levels of mental stress of (i) children, (ii) school staff and (iii) parents. [42969]

Tim Loughton: Although the draft transparency section of the Department for Education draft business plan published in November suggested that achievements of children at the end of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) might be published at school level in addition to data already published on children's attainment at the end of the primary school phase, this is not our intention. The final version of the business plan will contain definitions of our impact indicators and the data we will publish to increase transparency. Information about children's achievement at age five has been published at local authority and national level since 2003 and our plan is to continue to publish the information in this way.

The Department has not undertaken research on the impact of publication of this information on levels of mental stress.

Education: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the average number of separate *(a)* AS, *(b)* A2 and *(c)* A level examination or other evaluation sittings taken per student by the end of year 13 in maintained schools and sixth form colleges in academic year (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2009-10; [27595]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average number of separate GCSE examinations or other evaluation sittings taken per student by the end of school year 11 in academic year *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2009-10; [27597]

(3) what the average number of public examination entries per student was in maintained schools and sixth form colleges in school year *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 in academic year (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2009-10. [27600]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not held centrally. The Department does not hold information on individual examinations or modules sat by pupils towards achieving qualifications. Only the grade awarded for the overall qualification is collected from awarding organisations for use in constructing measures of achievement in the school and college performance tables.

We believe there is a clear danger that modularisation and re-sits are undermining confidence in the grades awarded in key examinations and are undermining in-depth study. We have asked the qualifications regulator Ofqual to look at the impact of recent changes to A-levels and whether further action is needed to ensure that re-sitting does not become widespread and undermine confidence in the exams. We have also asked the regulator to advise on how to bring an end to modular GCSEs and return to a system where students are examined on everything they have learnt at the end of their course.

Education: Music

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the trends in the teaching of musical instruments in schools and the effect of such trends on the playing of musical instruments by children. [39012]

Tim Loughton: In 2007 the Department for Children Schools and Families published a report, 'Local Authority Music Services Provision (2007) for Key Stage 1 and 2' which collected data relating to the implementation of an initiative which aimed to widen opportunities for pupils to learn a musical instrument. The study revealed that 73% of responding local authorities in England had introduced whole class instrumental tuition. The percentage of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 schools receiving regular instrumental or vocal tuition was 71%.

In its 2009 report "Making More of Music, An evaluation of Music in schools 2005/08", Ofsted reported that the best instrumental/vocal programmes were making a real difference to pupils' musical education, but not all the programmes were of sufficient duration or quality to have a lasting impact.

The Secretary of State for Education asked Darren Henley to carry out a review of music education in September 2010. The Henley Review, together with the Government's response, was published on 7 February 2011. It announces funding for music services of £82.5 million in 2011-12 and the publication of a national plan for music education.

Education: Reform

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information schools will no longer be required to collect after the implementation of his proposed education reforms. [36823]

Mr Gibb: The Government are determined to reduce the data collection burden imposed on schools. To ensure that bureaucracy is kept to a minimum and that the value outweighs the burden, the central collection of information from schools is kept under constant review. Some collections have ceased in recent months and more are likely to do so as the result of a root and branch review of all the Department's data collections from schools. For example, we have already ended the Making Good Progress collection, the School and Local Authority Target Setting (SaLTs) collection and the Contact Module in the School Census. These changes are just the start of an ongoing programme of work and our intention is to reduce burdens further. We will ensure that any collections that remain reflect Government priorities and White Paper commitments.

Educational Visits

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulatory requirements apply to teachers wishing to take their class on a visit out of school. [33264]

Mr Gibb: Teachers wishing to take their class out of school on an educational visit are subject to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. There are no further national regulations specific to such visits, though employers (local authorities for community, voluntary-controlled and community special schools; governing bodies or trusts for other schools) can have local rules and guidance, which their schools must adhere to. In accordance with the recommendations in the Government's report, "Common Sense Common Safety" (October 2010), the Department for Education is working with the Health and Safety Executive to help schools comply with their duty of care in a sensible and proportionate way. This includes developing succinct guidance on all aspects of health and safety in schools including for educational visits. We are also supporting the Health and Safety Executive to develop a code of practice for off-site adventure activities (to take the place of validation by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority).

English Baccalaureate: Crafts

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Firing Up and *(b)* organisations seeking to introduce craft skills to schools in developing his proposals for the English Baccalaureate. [39102]

Mr Gibb: Neither I nor the Secretary of State for Education have had discussions with Firing Up or any organisations seeking to introduce craft skills to schools in developing proposals for the English Baccalaureate.

English Baccalaureate: Religion

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the effect on teaching of religious education of not including it in the definition of the English Baccalaureate for the purposes of school performance tables. [38974]

Mr Gibb: While religious studies GCSE will not count towards the English Baccalaureate the teaching of religious education remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. However we will continue to monitor the teaching of religious education as we do at present through the School Workforce Census, which will collect information annually on the subjects being taught by all teachers in maintained secondary schools, through trends in GCSE entry, and through Ofsted's triennial subject survey report of religious education which will look at the quality of teaching.

Extracurricular Activities: Impact Assessments

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether an impact assessment was made of the decision of the Training Development Agency to discontinue its support to local authorities in respect of the extended services programme. [35507]

Mr Gibb: The Training and Development Agency's remit from the Department was to support all schools to become extended service schools by September 2010. It was a time-limited programme with a clear end point. No separate decision to end the support which would have required an impact assessment to be completed was made.

Free Schools

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many communications officials of his Department were working of free schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [37979]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* The Department's communications directorate is not structured to dedicate full-time individuals or teams on any one policy. Their model for delivery is to work across a broad range of projects in parallel when required. A number of communications officials have therefore been engaged in free schools' policy at different stages.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of the 35 proposals for free schools are in the 35 most deprived areas. [39678]

Mr Gibb: As at 9 February 2011, there are 40 proposals approved to business case and plan stage. Of these, 10 are in the 35 most deprived local authority areas.

GCE A-level

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils achieved three or more A grades at A level in each local education authority in England in each year between 2003 and 2010. [28643]

Mr Gibb: The information available has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the relative academic merits of A Level qualifications in different subjects for the purposes of gaining admission to universities; and what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on this subject. [42672]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

Higher education institutions are independent and autonomous organisations. Decisions about admission, including the importance and requirement of different A-Levels for different courses, are a matter for individual universities, and not for Government.

We have welcomed the publication of information by the Russell Group on the value of different A-Levels contained in its new guidance on post-16 study choices 'Informed Choices' published, in collaboration with the Institute of Careers Guidance, on 4 February 2011.

GCE AS-level

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future participation of sixth form students in AS level examinations; and if he will make a statement. [34987]

Mr Gibb: The Government set out in the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" their commitment to restore A levels to their place as rigorous, highly respected qualifications.

The Government believe there is a danger that modularisation and multiple re-sits are undermining confidence in grades awarded in key exams and undermining in-depth study. We have asked the independent qualifications regulator, Ofqual, to examine the impact of recent changes to A levels and consider how we can ensure that the number of re-sits is minimised. We will also consider whether linear A levels should be available to test the depth of students' understanding.

GCSE

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of GCSE students in each local authority area attained a C grade or above in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English and *(c)* mathematics and English in each year from 1990 to 2009; and if he will make a statement. [24360]

Mr Gibb: The requested information from 1994 to 2009 has been placed in the House Libraries. Information from 1990 to 1993 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North of 10 December 2010 on the English Baccalaureate. [38479]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* Following discussion, the hon. Member has clarified that the letter referred to in her question was not sent to the Secretary of State for Education on 10 December, but on 2 December. A reply to this letter was issued on 8 February and the hon. Member has confirmed she has received this. I apologise for the delay in the response.

Office of the Schools Adjudicator: Complaints

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many complaints the Office of the Schools Adjudicator received relating to the Admissions Code for secondary schools for *(a)* Academies and *(b)* other secondary schools in each of the last three years; and how many (i) schools and (ii) year 7 pupils there were in each category in each year; [37042]

(2) how many complaints were received by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator relating to the application of the admissions code for secondary schools in respect of *(a)* Church of England schools, *(b)* Catholic schools, *(c)* other faith schools and *(d)* other secondary schools in each of the last three years; and how many (i) schools and (ii) year 7 pupils there were in each such category of school in each year. [37046]

Mr Gibb: Objections in respect of Academies are dealt with by the Young Persons Learning Agency, with advice from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator which the YPLA is required to follow unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of State for Education. As signalled in the White Paper—The Importance of Teaching—we intend to change this so that the Office of the Schools Adjudicator will review specific complaints about admission arrangements for all schools including Academies and Free Schools.

Between 1 April and 31 December 2010 the YPLA dealt with one complaint about the admission arrangements of Academies. Information is not available prior to this point.

The following table gives the number of objections received broken down by type of school for each of the last three years.

Complaints received by OSA re application of the admissions code

	CofE	RC	Other faith	Other secondary schools
2010	6	9	2	241
2009	6	11	5	83
2008	14	18	8	85

The number of objections do not directly relate to the number of schools in an area as it is possible for prescribed person to object to the admission arrangements in an entire local authority area. There were 58 such objections in 2010, 16 in 2009 and 26 in 2008.

The following tables provide the number of schools and pupils.

Number of state-funded secondary schools[1] [2] by religious character and the number of pupils in national curriculum year group 7 attending those schools, in January each year—England

	Secondary schools[1] [2]				Year 7 pupils[3]			
	Church of England	Catholic	Other Faith[4]	Other (no religious character)	Church of England	Catholic	Other Faith[4]	Other (no religious character)
2008	202	337	65	2,779	29,290	54,830	8,640	459,570
2009	205	334	71	2,751	30,620	55,280	10,320	466,590
2010	207	331	78	2,717	30,350	54,010	11,740	453,630

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[4] Includes schools of mixed denomination or other Christian beliefs.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census and Edubase

Number of academies and secondary schools and the number of pupils in national curriculum year group 7 attending those schools, in January each year—England

	Secondary schools		Year 7 pupils[1]	
	Academies	Other secondary schools[2,3]	Academies	Other secondary schools[2,3]
2008	83	3,300	14,050	538,270
2009	133	3,228	22,240	540,570
2010	203	3,130	33,550	516,180

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes city technology colleges.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:
School Census

Pen Green Children and Families Research Centre

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* discussions he has had on the funding of Pen Green Children and Families Research Centre. [39464]

Sarah Teather: I have received a number of representations from pen green centre for children and their families and from those involved with the centre about funding. The Government have ensured there is enough money in the system to maintain the network of Sure Start children's centres, however, it is for local authorities, in consultation with local communities to determine the most effective way of delivering future services to meet local need. They have a duty to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and to secure sufficient centre provision to meet local need so far as is reasonably practical.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 572W, on health education, for what reasons the review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education is to be an internal review; and if he will make a statement. [37989]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* The review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education is described as "internal" to reflect that it will be led by the Department and not an external body or panel. Further decisions relating to the process and timescale for the internal PSHE review have not yet been taken. The Department for Education is currently considering options and further information will be available in due course.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the level of funding to be allocated to early years education for children from disadvantaged families in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [37500]

Sarah Teather: The Government's recent funding announcements reflect our commitment to ensuring all children, particularly those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, have access to high quality early education. The spending review confirmed that all three and four-year-olds will continue to receive 15 hours of free early education per week, delivered more flexibly. Funding for free early education places for three and four-year-olds is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which supports the majority of education provision for children aged three to 16. Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, decide how best to distribute funding across their locality, and local authorities set their own local rates of funding to early years providers. No national funding allocation figure is available.

The spending review statement also included a commitment to extending the entitlement to free early education to all disadvantaged two-year-olds from 2013. The investment over the next four years will be: £64 million in 2011-12; £233 million in 2012-13; £331 million in 2013-14; and, £380 million in 2014-15. For the first two years of the spending review period, this funding will be provided to local authorities through the Early Intervention Grant.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education from which of his Department's budgets funding for the expansion of free early years provision to 3 and 4 year olds will be drawn. [37959]

Sarah Teather: The Government extended free early education to three and four-year-olds, from 12.5 hours to 15 hours a week, from September 2010, and pledged through the spending review to protect this free provision. The extension has been funded in the current financial year through the Standards Fund. From April 2011, funding will be provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which supports the majority of education provision for children aged three to 16.

Primary Education: Teachers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to use the expansion of Teach First to primary school level to increase the proportion of teachers who are male. [35237]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The expansion of Teach First in Primary is not to increase the number of male teachers in primary schools. In selecting the best possible candidates, Teach First is concerned with the quality of applicants and their suitability for the programme.

Progress Project

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding was allocated to the Progress project administered by the Children's Workforce Development Council in each region in 2010-11. [41011]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 February 2011]:* A total of £2,122,750 has been allocated to the regions under the Progress project as follows:

£

Region	Project administration	Training delivery	Accreditation bursaries
East	32,750	200,000	4,000
East Midlands	32,750	200,000	2,000
London	32,750	200,000	4,000

£

Region	*Project administration*	*Training delivery*	*Accreditation bursaries*
North East	32,750	200,000	1,000
North West	32,750	200,000	4,000
South East	32,750	200,000	2,000
South West	32,750	200,000	3,000
West Midlands	32,750	200,000	5,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	32,750	200,000	3,000
Totals	294,750	1,800,000	28,000

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will continue to fund the Progress project administered by the Children's Workforce Development Council in 2011-12 and 2012-13. [41012]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 February 2011]:* The Progress project is part of a three-year programme of development for the young people's work force which is coming to a natural end in March 2011. It has succeeded making a significant contribution to the environment and infrastructure for the work force to develop and work together effectively. It is now for the sector and employers to build upon the outcomes of the programme and to manage their development in order to best meet local needs.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to provide school appeal panels with the power to insist that a school reinstates a suspended pupil. [38090]

Mr Gibb: As set out in the Education Bill introduced on 26 January 2011, we are proposing changes to the exclusion system. The Bill will reform the unduly adversarial process which can sometimes follow when a head teacher must, as a last resort, exclude a pupil. It will establish independent review panels to replace the current independent appeal panels.

A review panel will be able to direct a school's governing body to reconsider a permanent exclusion decision but it will not be able to direct the governors to reinstate the pupil. Review panels will have the power to impose a financial penalty in circumstances where a school whose decision was quashed by the panel reconsidered the exclusion but still decided not to reinstate the pupil.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made on its plans to improve discipline in schools by providing alternative provisions in special units for excluded pupils. [44031]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The current Education Bill includes provisions to encourage more private and voluntary sector involvement in alternative provision by creating the opportunity for them to establish free schools that deliver alternative provision more effectively and economically. The Bill also includes provisions for pupil referral units (PRUs), to apply for academy status.

The Education Bill also includes provisions which empower teachers and heads to enforce discipline, and for heads' decisions to exclude not to be overturned.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to run boot camp-style pilot schemes for excluded pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* Merseyside. [44032]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The Department has no plans to run boot camp style pilot schemes for excluded pupils in either Merseyside or anywhere else. We will however, be making £1.5 million grant to the charity SkillForce to run three programmes aimed at using the skills and experience of ex-service personnel to help young people either excluded or at risk of exclusion.

The three programmes to run from September 2011 will:

Expand the core SkillForce programme working with disadvantaged pupils struggling with their behaviour and/or academic achievement;

Run a Zero Exclusion pilot of intensive support to 100 pupils at risk of exclusion;

Train 100 ex-service personnel to work as mentors for young people in and out of schools across England.

SkillForce deliver inspiring programmes that increase the number of young people entering further education, employment and training on leaving school. It helps young people earn vocational qualifications, and develop life skills through appropriate and structured classroom and outdoor activities.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to seek tenders from *(a)* businesses and *(b)* existing providers to run special units and alternative provision for excluded pupils. [44033]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The current Education Bill includes provisions to encourage more private and voluntary sector involvement in alternative provision by creating the opportunity for them to establish free schools.

The Department has already received a number of applications from organisations who wish to establish free schools specifically for those pupils who are excluded from mainstream school or are at risk of exclusion and we are working with these organisations to establish suitable criteria for this type of provision. Once these criteria have been agreed we will invite more applications from both new and established organisations, subject to parliamentary approval of the Education Bill.

Pupils: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children under the age of 11 years received support in schools as a result of a diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each of the last five years. [39193]

Mr Gibb: Information on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is not available.

A table showing the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs or at School Action Plus whose primary need has been identified as behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) is provided. Pupils with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder as their primary need are included in the BESD category.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: number and percentage of pupils[4] whose primary type of need is BESD[5], under the age of 11[6], as at January each year, England

	Maintained Primary[1]		*State-funded Secondary[1, 2]*		*Special[3]*	
	Number of BESD pupils	*Percentage of pupils with BESD[7]*	*Number of BESD pupils*	*Percentage of pupils with BESD[7]*	*Number of BESD pupils*	*Percentage of pupils with BESD[7]*
2006	54,910	18.5	940	22.1	2,790	9.1
2007	55,840	18.5	930	21.6	2,780	9.2
2008	57,930	18.6	900	21.1	2,880	9.5
2009	56,760	18.5	930	21.0	2,820	9.4
2010	60,850	18.5	1,140	21.4	2,840	9.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[5] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.

[6] Age as at 31 August of the previous year.

[7] Number of pupils with BESD as their primary need expressed as a percentage of all pupils at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN in the same school type.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School census.

Reading

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what resources his Department has provided to encourage reading of books by pre-school children. [33171]

Sarah Teather: The Government recognise the importance of reading and language development in the early years. The Early Years Foundations Stage (EYFS) framework requires providers (unless exempt) who care for children from birth to five to support and extend their reading, writing and communication skills. By the end of the EYFS, children are expected to link sounds to letters, name and sound the letters of the alphabet and read independently a range of familiar and common words and simple sentences.

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of free early education. We also announced in the spending review that this will also be extended, subject to legislation, to every disadvantaged two-year-old. This investment will ensure that all young children—particularly the most disadvantaged—reap the benefits of early education in terms of their cognitive and social development, readiness for school and later educational attainment.

Early learning also takes place within the family. Since 2004 my Department has funded the Booktrust.

School Capital Funding

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the selection criteria were for the position of Chair of the review of school capital funding. [39668]

Mr Gibb: The chair of the capital review was selected for the depth and range of his experience and expertise relevant to the terms of reference for the review as follows.

Sebastian James has a great deal of experience in driving out inefficiency and maximising value for money in the retail sector, making him a good choice to chair the capital review. He is currently the Group Operations Director of DSG International plc leading both the Retail and Services teams, as well as being responsible for the supply chain. Previously, as Group Development Director, Sebastian managed the Currys store building and transformation programme. In both roles he has been responsible for significantly improving quality and customer experience while reducing costs by over 25%. As Strategy Director for Mothercare plc Sebastian had responsibility for developing and implementing the turnaround strategy at Mothercare plc. He was also involved, as operating partner, in the foundation of eGS, a leading e-Government procurement platform.

Terms of reference for the review of capital

Purpose

1. To review, in the context of the Government's fiscal consolidation plans and emerging policy, the Department's existing capital expenditure and make recommendations on the future delivery models for capital investment for 2011-12 onwards.

2. The overall aim of the review is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

Scope

3. The review will consider how all DfE capital expenditure within any spending constraint and PFI policy could be distributed more effectively over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15).

The review will be broken down into four main strands:

Allocation of capital funds

To evaluate the extent to which value for money has been achieved in capital expenditure to date;

to consider how to generate sufficient places to allow new providers to enter the state school system in response to parental demand;

to review current methods of allocating capital (for example, by formula to local authorities);

to consider options for reflecting Government policies on carbon reduction; and

to enable the establishment of new schools.

Distribution of capital investment

To assess the scope and make recommendations for how to distribute capital more efficiently and less expensively, including simplification of procurement, and increased use of standard and modular design;

to develop a clear understanding of current approach, waste and issues associated;

to consider the relationship between schools, local government and central Government;

to increase choice locally determined by parental demand;

to review the current procurement/delivery models, including:

the use of frameworks to deliver capital (currently used for academies and a third of BSF projects); and

the BSF Investments (BSFI) investment vehicle

to review the roles of bodies involved, specifically DfE, Partnerships for Schools (PfS), local authorities, the local education partnerships (LEPs) and National Framework; and

to provide recommendations for central structure required to manage the distribution of capital investment.

School Meals

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to ensure that every child receives a balanced and healthy school lunch. [35558]

Sarah Teather: It is absolutely vital that schools continue to serve healthy food and make sure their pupils are eating well. That is why we have committed to retain the school food standards and continue to fund the School Food Trust to provide support and advice to schools on the standards and on improving their school meals services.

In 2011-12, the School Lunch Grant is being rolled into the Dedicated Schools Grant to enable the continued provision of healthy lunches, which will also support the increase of school lunch take up.

Decisions about taking a school lunch are ultimately for families to make, taking the costs and benefits into account.

Schools: Discipline

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what powers are available to head teachers in respect of controlling the behaviour of pupils on their way to and from school. [38089]

Mr Gibb: Under section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, schools can discipline their pupils for bad behaviour that occurs on their journey to and from school and any bad behaviour that happens off the school premises if it is reported to them.

Schools: Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps the Government took to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2011 in schools and colleges; and if he will make a statement. [38113]

Mr Gibb: Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us of the lessons of the holocaust and the consequences of allowing prejudice to grow. The Department funds the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project, which provides for two students (aged 16-18) from every school/sixth form college in England to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. Many of the students who participate on the project will have marked Holocaust Memorial Day in their schools and local communities across the country.

Schools: Laboratories

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of health and safety requirements in school laboratories in England; and what information his Department holds on the safety record of such laboratories in the North East. [36825]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not assess health and safety requirements in individual school laboratories or collect data on regional safety records. Advice about the law relating to risk management, and about the good practice that assists compliance, may be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive, whose website, at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/index.htm

carries guidance issued by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Such advice can also be obtained from CLEAPSS (a subscription-based source of expertise in science safety) at:

http://www.cleapss.org.uk/

Data about safety records may be available from the local authorities within a region since local authorities, as employers, are ultimately responsible for health and safety in their schools.

Schools: Vetting

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether school caretakers will be subject to vetting under the Government's proposed new arrangements for child protection. [43271]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* Yes, under the Government's proposed new arrangements for the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) school caretakers will still fall within the new definition of 'regulated activity', and will have to be vetted.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to improve schools careers advice in North Swindon constituency. [36140]

Mr Gibb: We intend to restore a focus on specialist expertise in careers guidance for young people and adults based on the core principles of independence and professionalism. Schools will take responsibility for securing access to independent and impartial careers guidance. They will have freedom to fulfil this requirement in ways that best suit the needs of their students.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to collect and publish data on pupil achievement by type of disability. [37900]

Sarah Teather: The 2011 School Census enabled schools in England to provide information on the disability of children on a voluntary basis. This is in addition to the mandatory provision of information by primary type of SEN. Future collection and publication arrangements for data on disability will be considered in the light of data and feedback collected in response to January 2011 School Census returns which will become available in the spring.

Similarly, a decision on whether to publish information on pupil achievement by type of disability will be made following analysis of the completeness of data received through the School Census.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to provide funding for the post of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Co-ordinator beyond March 2011. [38002]

Sarah Teather: We are taking decisions about funding for activities to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, including those relating to augmentative and alternative communication, in the context of our Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to be published shortly.

Special Educational Needs: Hearing Impairment

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of deaf pupils who are not recorded as having a special educational need. [37899]

Sarah Teather: It is not possible for the Department to reliably estimate the number of deaf pupils who are not recorded as having a special educational need.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to require local authorities to collect data on the *(a)* achievement and *(b)* attainment of deaf children. [39561]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not require local authorities to provide specific information on deaf children.

The Special Educational Needs Information Act (2008) requires the annual publication of information about children in England with special educational needs. The information published includes local authority data on outcomes for these children by SEN type, including hearing impairment, at key stages 2 and 4 in English, maths and science.

The Schools White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" set out our intention to publish easy to understand data about how well pupils achieve so that schools and local authority areas are more accountable to parents. The Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities will explore how to increase transparency so that parents know how their child is to be supported and how their child is progressing.

Sure Start Programme

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to revise the core universal offer set by his Department for Sure Start children's centres. [39466]

Sarah Teather: Sure Start children's centres have a critical role to play in their communities and remain at the heart of the Government's vision for early intervention. We aim to retain a national network of Sure Start children's centres with a core universal offer but with a greater emphasis on delivering proven early intervention programmes to support families in greatest need. We are exploring ways to move beyond the current core offer to give children's centres greater flexibility to respond to the needs of families in their area. We are exploring, with experts from the sector, how we can focus more clearly on the core purpose of children's centres and the outcomes we want to see, particularly for the most disadvantaged groups.

Sure Start Programme: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average administration costs of Sure Start children's centres were in Liverpool in the latest period for which figures are available. [41081]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 February 2011]*: The Department for Education does not currently collect data on the administration costs of Sure Start Children's Centres nationally.

We have consulted on changes to data which local authorities are required to report on their expenditure on children's services. From 2011-12, local authority expenditure on Sure Start Children's Centres will be published, including how much funding is held back for local authority central administration costs, and how much is spent on front line services.

Teachers: Registration

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the registered teacher programme. [25801]

Mr Gibb: We have stated our intention in the Schools White Paper 2010 "The Importance of Teaching" to reform the way in which initial teacher training (ITT) is performed and funded to improve the quality of teachers and teaching. The document sets out a number of steps which will be taken to achieve this including reforming ITT so that more training is in the classroom. We are therefore currently reviewing all the routes into teaching, including the Registered Teacher Programme. We will publish for consultation a discussion document early in 2011 on our detailed proposals for ITT from academic year 2012/13.

Teachers: Rights of Accused

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether staff working in *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges will be given anonymity when accused of an offence by students aged 18 and under, on the same basis as is proposed for school teachers in paragraph 3.6 of the White Paper, The Importance of Teaching. [34986]

Mr Gibb: The commitment in the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", currently applies only to teachers in schools. This is because teachers are particularly vulnerable to the damage that maliciously intended or false allegations can have on their careers and personal lives. School teachers are responsible for the discipline of pupils in their classrooms and as such may on occasion need to use reasonable force to prevent pupils committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others, damaging property or to maintain good order and discipline. There is a perception that some children feel they can make allegations without any thought to the consequences for the teacher concerned, because they know it is unlikely they will be punished for making a false allegation. Where allegations are found to have been made maliciously the clearing of the teacher's name may be scant consolation for the trauma suffered through the social stigma attached to having been suspected of abusing or hurting a child. There may be arguments that the wider children's workforce, including those working in sixth form or further education colleges, can also be vulnerable to such allegations and I intend to keep under consideration the possibility of widening the scope of the anonymity protection.

Teachers: Vocational Guidance

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department undertook an impact assessment in respect of the changes to the number of Training Development Agency staff who provide specialist careers advice to people wishing to train as teachers. [35198]

Mr Gibb: As part of the Government's spending efficiencies in this financial year, all current programmes offering information, advice and guidance to those interested in a teaching career were reviewed by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), in discussion with the Department.

The regional careers advisers programme was one of a range of activities that TDA offered. The careers advisers had been contracted by the TDA and were not full-time TDA employees. Their role was to offer independent specialist careers advice to career changers. With the availability of independent careers advice from other sources offered nationally, TDA concluded that this programme was no longer a priority.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms exist for the co-ordination of the implementation in the UK of the Government's obligations under the UN convention on the rights of the child. [18583]

Sarah Teather: Since ratification in 1991, Governments have implemented the UN convention on the rights of the child through a mixture of legislation and policy initiatives. This Government take their obligations to the implementation of the convention very seriously. In line with devolved powers, each of the devolved Administrations implements the UN Committee's concluding observations within the context of their own national requirements.

As state party, the Westminster Government are responsible for overall compliance with and co-ordination of the convention across the UK. The Department for Education leads the implementation of the convention in England, and works with children's organisations, the devolved Administrations, and other Government Departments to co-ordinate UK-wide progress and report on the convention.

Vocational Education: GCSE

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education by what date he expects BTEC or equivalent qualifications to be included as part of the school attainment measure of five GCSE grades at A* to C including English and mathematics. [32585]

Mr Gibb: BTEC or equivalent qualifications are included in the school attainment measures of five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics that were published in the Performance Tables on 12 January 2011. These equivalent qualifications have been included in school attainment measures since 2004 and in the five GCSE grades at A*-C including English and maths measure since it was introduced into performance tables in 2006.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 37370, on regulations removed by his Department, tabled on 26 January 2011 for answer on 31 January. [42698]

Tim Loughton: A response was issued to the hon. Member on 28 February, *Official Report*, columns 259-260W.

Youth Services: Finance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what statutory duties local authorities are required to meet in respect of the early intervention grant. [38782]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 7 February 2011]:* The Government have committed to investment and reform in early intervention at a time of financial constraint—intervening early makes sense socially, morally and financially. The Early intervention Grant is intended to fund universal programmes and activities available to all children, young people and families, as well as specialist services where intensive support is needed. However, it is up to local authorities in consultation with their local communities to prioritise the type and distribution of services subject to their statutory duties.

There are no statutory duties specifically attached to the funding in the Early Intervention Grant, due to the un-ringfenced nature of the grant. The Early Intervention Grant may be used to fulfil statutory duties such as Sure Start and Short Break services but local authorities can meet the requirements of their statutory duties through a combination of all their funding, subject to local priorities. As the Early Intervention Grant is un-ringfenced, it provides the freedom and flexibility local authorities need to make savings while protecting the services that are most important to their residents.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely budget for council tax benefit in each year to 2014-15. [45172]

Steve Webb: The nominal figures for estimated council tax benefit expenditure are as follows:

	Forecasted nominal CTB expenditure (£ million) as of autumn 2010
2010-11	4,958
2011-12	4,876
2012-13	4,939
2013-14	4,449
2014-15	4,537

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40524]

Chris Grayling: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 853W.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42623]

Chris Grayling: Since the publication of the Principles of Good Employment Practice in December 2010, the Department for Work and Pensions has reviewed its procurement policy and practice to confirm they comply with the six principles. These complement the DWP Supplier Charter and guide the Department's discussions and relationships with its suppliers on contracting arrangements.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish details of all new units or teams established within his Department since May 2010, including the *(a)* name, *(b)* purpose, *(c)* staffing levels and *(d)* total annual operational costs in each such case. [38407]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently going through a period of organisational review. As part of this, teams and units will naturally merge and reform in order to ensure it provides efficient and effective services.

An exception to this is the Universal Credit Directorate, formed in November 2010 to replace six income replacement benefits with a simple, efficient universal credit, designed to make work pay. In 2011-12, a budget of £6.6 million has been allocated for 99 existing staff, who are working to develop and implement universal credit in a way that offers our customers a fast, modern and seamless service. This team will be responsible for the management of the programme including liaison with local authorities and other Government Departments, designing and developing business processes, communications and planning for the delivery of the new universal credit. As the programme progresses, there will be a need for more teams to administrate it, but the details on that have still to be decided.

Disability Living Allowance

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* London, *(b)* Harrow East constituency and *(c)* the UK will be affected by the changes in the mobility component of disability living allowance. [41394]

Maria Miller: As was announced at publication of the Welfare Reform Bill on 17 February, the Government's intention is to bring in any change to the mobility component as part of the wider reform of disability living allowance (DLA). Consultation on wider reform of DLA with the key proposal of a new benefit to be known as personal independence payment concluded on 18 February. All working age recipients of disability living allowance will be reassessed against the conditions of entitlement to personal independence payment over a three-year period beginning in 2013.

As the new assessment for personal independence payment and the process for reassessing the existing DLA case load are still being developed, I am unable, at this stage, to provide a precise estimate for the number of people affected.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to support disabled people seeking work. [44182]

Maria Miller: We are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the same employment opportunities and chances as everyone else to find and stay in work, regardless of their disability or benefit status.

As part of this commitment, the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for a range of employment provision specifically aimed at disabled people.

Work Choice, which was launched in October last year, provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Access to Work—provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people above and beyond what the employer could reasonably provide, to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability and thus stay in work.

In addition, Remploy is an Executive Non Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions. It delivers a range of employment and development opportunities for disabled people under the Work Choice programme.

The Department for Work and Pensions also funds residential training for unemployed disabled adults whose needs cannot be met through any other Government funded programmes.

Later this year, the Work programme will be introduced which will provide more personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people. Contributory ESA customers will be able to volunteer for the Work programme, and if they wish, remain on the programme after their benefit has come to an end, ensuring that they receive all the support they need to help them return to work.

The Work programme will be complemented by a new Jobcentre Plus offer which will allow more flexibility to Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers to judge which interventions will help individual customers, including disabled customers, most cost effectively and meet local need. Jobcentre Plus will continue to work closely with local health services, supported by disability employment advisers and work psychologists.

I also commissioned an independent review of the support the Government provides to disabled people who want to work. This review is being conducted by Liz Sayce, chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR and will report in the summer 2011, with recommendations on how existing specialist employment support for disabled people can better serve the Department's wide ranging customer base.

Future Jobs Fund: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were placed in employment in Coventry through the Future Jobs Fund, in each of the last three years. [44180]

Chris Grayling: The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) at up to £6,500 per person is expensive; creates temporary, short term jobs; and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent employment.

The most recent Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 19 January 2011. Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which covers the period from October 2009 to the end of October 2010.

The information requested is in the table.

The number of people in the Coventry South, Coventry North East and Coventry North West constituencies that have started FJF funded employment since October 2009

	Starts
October 2009	—
November 2009	—
December 2009	—
January 2010	40
February 2010	60
March 2010	80
April 2010	30
May 2010	20
June 2010	20
July 2010	40
August 2010	40
September 2010	40
October 2010	40
Total	410

Notes:

1. Data Source—DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database November 2010.

2. Due to Data Protection protocols, values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash to avoid unnecessary disclosure. Additionally, any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding, totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Jobseekers and Work Programme Division

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions into what industries in Coventry those in Coventry who had previously been supported through the Future Jobs Fund have been placed in during 2010-11. [44181]

Chris Grayling: We do not keep records of where people have been employed through the future jobs fund. This information is only held by the bodies who receive grants from the fund. Grants were awarded to the following bodies to deliver future jobs fund opportunities in Coventry.

3SC
Barnardo's
Community Service Volunteers
Community Transport
Coventry City Council
Football League Trust
Groundwork UK and National Housing Association
National Skills Academy
The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
The Salvation Army
v-Russell Commission Implementation Body
Warwickshire County Council

Housing Benefit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of tenants *(a)* in the West Midlands and *(b)* nationally whose monthly rent payments are higher than their housing benefit payment. [44183]

Steve Webb: The two year review of the local housing allowance (LHA), which was published in February 2011, contained information on the proportion of LHA cases experiencing excesses and shortfalls. It showed that in the West Midlands 53% of LHA cases had contractual rents higher than their applicable LHA rates. Across Great Britain, 49% of customers had contractual rents higher than their applicable LHA rates.

Levels of income higher than the claimant's applicable amount or deductions for non-dependants would make the HB award lower than the LHA rate and increase the proportions with shortfalls beyond what is shown here.

Source:

Analysis of February 2010 single housing benefit extract data.

The two year review is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-review-feb-2011.pdf

Housing Benefit: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of housing benefit claimants in Coventry were *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* in work and *(c)* out of work in each of the last three years. [44184]

Steve Webb: As requested, the following table presents the proportion of housing benefit recipients by employment status and those aged 65 and over—Coventry local authority.

HB recipients in Coventry LA

	All recipients	*Proportion over 65*	*Proportion not in employment*	*Proportion in employment*
November 2008	24,790	23.0	88.8	11.2
October 2009	27,520	20.9	87.4	12.6
November 2010	28,870	20.0	83.9	16.1

Notes:

1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and November 2010 is the most recent available.

4. The data for November 2009 does not contain all of the variables required to answer this question, October 2009 has been used in this instance.

5. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten, proportions to one decimal place.

6. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

(a) the recipient if they are single, or

(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple

7. The data for "in employment" refers to people receiving housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified and therefore not included in this analysis.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Jobcentre Plus: Temporary Employment

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Jobcentre Plus employees on successive fixed-term contracts of between three and four years in duration in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK were released in each of the last four years; and how many employees on successive fixed-term contracts of between three and four years he expects to be released in each of the next four years; [43300]

(2) how many Jobcentre Plus employees engaged on fixed-term contracts had their contracts made permanent under the Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002 in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in each of the last four years; [43301]

(3) how many Jobcentre Plus staff in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in each of the last four years were employed on fixed-term contracts; and what the average duration of such contracts was in each such year; [43302]

(4) how many Jobcentre Plus staff he expects to be engaged on fixed-term contracts in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK in each of the next four years; and what the average duration of such contracts will be in each such year. [43303]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

1. How many Jobcentre Plus employees on successive fixed term contracts of between three and four years in duration in a) Glasgow; b) Scotland; and c) the UK were released in each of the last four years; and how many employees on successive fixed term contracts of between three and four years he expects to be released in each of the next four years.

2. How many Jobcentre Plus employees engaged on fixed-term contracts had their contracts made permanent under the Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002 in (a) Glasgow, (b) Scotland and (c) the UK in each of the last four years.

3. How many Jobcentre Plus staff in (a) Glasgow (b) Scotland and (c) the UK in each of the last four years were employed on fixed-term contracts; and what the average duration of such contracts was in each such year.

4. How many Jobcentre Plus staff he expects to be engaged on fixed-term contracts in (a) Glasgow, (b) Scotland and (c) the UK in each of the next four years; and what the average duration of such contracts will be in each such year.

These are issues that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In response to Question 1, the information in the following table concerning employees released is set out on a staff in post basis, i.e. employees are counted as a single unit irrespective of the hours they work. The table shows employees released in the last four years with contracts of between three and four years duration. It covers the latest period for which data is available. When we report against Glasgow, it is on the basis of the Jobcentre Plus operational district.

	October 2006 to September 2007	*October 2007 to September 2008*	*October 2008 to September 2009*	*October 2009 to September 2010*
Glasgow	2	0	0	0
Scotland	2	0	0	1
Jobcentre Plus—National	34	1	4	18

In response to the second part of Question 1, as at September 10, we had around 9,500 people employed on Fixed Term Appointments (FTAs). Most people have contracts of up to two years and will be expected to leave during the course of 2011/12. We are considering extending the contracts of some of these people where required.

The data being reported is drawn from internal Departmental systems used to record and monitor staffing details.

In response to Question 2, local clerical records held in Glasgow indicate that no people were made permanent under the Fixed Term Employees (Prevention of less favourable treatment) regulations. It is not possible to consolidate clerical records for all areas of Scotland or for Jobcentre Plus nationally without disproportionate cost.

In response to Question 3, the following table shows the number of staff employed on FTA contracts in each of the last four years. This is taken from our internal systems and the numbers based on the latest information we hold on FTAs. The numbers shown are the people who worked as FTAs during each of the periods in question. Some people will have worked in more than one period and will be counted in both.

				Number of FTAs
	October 2006 to September 2007	*October 2007 to September 2008*	*October 2008 to September 2009*	*October 2009 to September 2010*
Glasgow	4	42	295	290
Scotland	63	312	1,493	1,600
Jobcentre Plus—National	657	1,721	12,235	14,979

The following table shows the average duration of FTA contracts over the last four years. This represents the average of the length of contract between the start and end dates of employment for individuals leaving Jobcentre Plus within each of the years in question. The figures have been rounded to one decimal place:

				Average duration (years)
	October 2006 to September 2007	*October 2007 to September 2008*	*October 2008 to September 2009*	*October 2009 to September 2010*
Glasgow	3	0.9	0.5	1.3
Scotland	1.3	0.8	0.3	1.4
Jobcentre Plus—National	1.5	0.7	0.7	1.4

In response to Question 4, Jobcentre Plus recruited extra people on fixed term contracts to address the impact of the economic downturn. It was anticipated that increased workloads would be temporary and it was always planned to reduce numbers as the growth in unemployment slowed. Jobcentre Plus continues to keep its workloads and staffing levels under close scrutiny. That includes the need to extend FTAs. At this point, Jobcentre Plus does not plan to recruit further FTAs and will release the majority of existing FTAs during 2011/12. This will be kept under review.

Older People: Employment

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of workers aged 65 years *(a)* in Glasgow South West constituency and *(b)* nationally who are likely to remain in the workforce for an additional year in 2011 following the end of the default retirement age. [41476]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The impact assessment estimates that around 6,000 additional workers are likely to remain in the workforce across the UK in the first year. We do not have data from which to produce robust statistics on the proportion likely to remain in the workforce at the sub-regional level. The full impact assessment was published on 13 January 2011 and is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/p/11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrants from other EU member states claimed social security benefits in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the likely change in this number in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [44989]

Chris Grayling: People from other EU member states who have worked in the UK and paid national insurance contributions may claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based jobseeker's allowance if they satisfy the contributions and other conditions for the benefit.

EU migrants cannot normally claim income-related benefits[1] unless they satisfy the habitual residence test.

The specific information sought about the number claiming benefits is not available. The UK's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits and no forecasts have been made.

[1] Income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Internet

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the proportion of benefit enquiries and applications made by those without home access to the internet in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [43128]

Chris Grayling: This information does not exist in the format that has been requested.

Online customer feedback collected by the Department to evaluate the use of the job seekers allowance (JSA) internet service asked customers where they made their online application. This indicates that 87% of these customers accessed the internet at home when making their online JSA application.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the basic state pension is claimable by each recipient with effect from the birthday at which they reach the state pension age; and if he will make a statement. [44905]

Steve Webb: Prior to April 2010, state pension was paid in advance and only for full benefit weeks (seven days), from the first Monday on or after the date on which the person reached state pension age. In April 2010, for people moving from a working age benefit to a pension age benefit, state pension became payable for less than a week to cover any gap caused by benefit pay days being different, to ensure continuity of payment.

In all other circumstances (for instance, for those in work or not in receipt of benefit) state pension continues to be paid only for full benefit weeks, and is now paid in arrears with the pay day determined by the person's national insurance number.

There are no plans to change this approach.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average reduction in income for *(a)* men and *(b)* women currently aged (i) 50, (ii) 51, (iii) 52, (iv) 53, (v) 54, (vi) 55, (vii) 56 and (viii) 57 who would receive (1) guarantee credit, (2) housing benefit and (3) council tax benefit on retirement as a result of the proposed change in the timetable for increasing the state pension age. [44980]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The outcome will vary greatly among individuals depending on factors such as: other sources of income, household income and savings eligibility for working age benefits.

Universal Credit

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of households who will have lower entitlements under universal credit fall into each £10,000 income band. [45167]

Chris Grayling: Transitional protection will ensure that there are no cash losers from universal credit, at the point of transition.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish an impact assessment on the operation of *(a)* universal credit and *(b)* the localised system of council tax benefit. [45169]

Steve Webb: We are currently considering when will be most appropriate to conduct an impact assessment on the operation of universal credit.

The Department for Communities and Local Government are leading the work on the localisation of council tax support in relation to England. They will publish a draft impact assessment alongside a consultation in due course. This will be updated when legislation on the new scheme is introduced.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing transitional protection for benefit recipients in households in each £10,000 income band. [45170]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available and to provide it would incur a disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the composition is of the Afghan High Peace Council. [44512]

Alistair Burt: The High Peace Council comprises seventy members drawn from all of Afghanistan's major ethnic groups, and includes representatives of the government and opposition, women, civil society and former insurgents. It is chaired by former President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Burma: Asylum

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Thailand on reports of forced deportation of Rohingya refugees. [44926]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are deeply concerned over allegations that at the beginning of 2011 Thailand forcibly deported Rohingya refugees. Our ambassador to Thailand reiterated our concern over their treatment with the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 February 2011. During this discussion he stressed the importance of ensuring that Thailand treats all refugees according to international standards and pressed for unhindered access for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. We deplore the targeted persecution of ethnic groups in Burma and will continue to underline regularly to international partners that the cause of refugee flows out of Burma is the regime's appalling human rights record.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Thailand on provision to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of unhindered access to Rohingya asylum seekers detained in Thailand. [44963]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are deeply concerned by the recent influx to Thailand of Rohingya refugees who have fled Burma to escape human rights abuses. Our embassy in Thailand is in regular contact with the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and has made representations to the Thai Government to press for full access by the UNHCR to the Rohingya. Most recently on 9 February 2011, our ambassador to Thailand raised the issue with the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our embassy is also working with EU partners to continue to press the Thai authorities on this matter.

Climate Change Convention

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with his *(a)* German, *(b)* US, *(c)* Indian, *(d)* Chinese, *(e)* Malawian, *(f)* Gambian, *(g)* Bolivian and *(h)* Malaysian counterparts. [44112]

Mr Bellingham: Engagement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, is only one way in which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) engages on climate change. As the Secretary of State said at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York in September 2010,

> "the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, under my leadership, is a vocal advocate for climate diplomacy. British Ambassadors carry the argument for a global low carbon transition in their breast pocket or their handbag. Climate change is part of their daily vocabulary, alongside the traditional themes of foreign policy."

I myself regularly raise these issues with foreign partners.

The Secretary of State has discussed climate change issues with his German counterpart and the Chinese Vice Premier, Li Keqiang (who visited the UK from 9-12 January 2011). He has not done so with his counterparts from the other countries listed, not all of whom he has met.

Most recently, the Secretary of State has focused on reinforcing European climate diplomacy, writing on 24 February 2011 with his German counterpart to the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy suggesting that EU Foreign Ministers meet to agree how the EU can play a more effective role on climate change.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43319]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK currently meets the Government's commitment, as detailed in the coalition agreement, to "ensure that food procured by government departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall cost."

We will formally report progress against this requirement in June 2011.

A response for the FCO's global network could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44343]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have staff in a civil service redeployment pool. The FCO's corporate pool is for staff who, because of the pattern of careers in the FCO, with a mixture of home and overseas postings, and fixed posting cycles, have unavoidable gaps between substantive jobs. In the vast majority of cases we are able to deploy these officers into temporary roles to meet short-term priority needs and to deal with unexpected crises. For example, we have deployed more than 50 staff from the corporate pool to help provide additional cover for the Libya crisis.

The number in the corporate pool change on a daily basis. On 28 February 2011 there were 227 people in the corporate pool of which 78 had been in it for more than six months. All but 12 members of the pool are currently fully deployed.

Departmental Official Residences

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of residences used by Ministers in his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [43217]

Alistair Burt: Chevening House in Sevenoaks is owned and administered by a private trust. Some residual costs are met by the public purse. These total £3,694.62 per annum.

The flat that constitutes the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' official residence at 1 Carlton Gardens is estimated to cost a total of £65,448 for the financial year 2010-11, a saving of £1,406 on the previous financial year.

Since my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's occupation of 1 Carlton Gardens on 28 June 2010, council tax and utility costs have been met by him personally.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44218]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no record of contracts placed with Electoral Reform Services (ERS) in each year since 2005. The FCO does have contracts with Electoral Reform International Services, established by ERS in 1992. Information on the value of these contracts is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to encourage other countries to sign the Hague Convention on Child Abduction. [44757]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government actively lobby countries where we have a significant number of abduction cases, or where we have encountered specific problems, to sign the 1980 Hague convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction.

Hezbollah

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Israeli counterpart, *(b)* his Lebanese counterpart and *(c)* his Syrian counterpart on Hezbollah's military capabilities in southern Lebanon. [43196]

Alistair Burt: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Prime Minister have raised the issue of Hezballah weapons recently; my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem during his visit to Damascus in January 2011 and the Prime Minister in discussions with Prime Minister Hariri in November 2010.

Our embassies in Tel Aviv, Beirut and Damascus also raise the issue of Hezballah's weapons with the Israeli, Lebanese and Syrian Governments on a regular basis.

Hosni Mubarak

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to freeze the assets of former President Mubarak held in the UK. [43915]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The Egyptian authorities have provided us, and other countries, with a list of names in relation to freezing the assets of several members of the former regime. However, it is our policy not to disclose the names of such people to avoid assets being moved. If evidence of illegality or misuse of state assets is shown to exist and provided to us, we will take firm and prompt action. The EU is also considering the options available to respond to the Egyptian authorities.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency have taken in respect of the assets of Hosni Mubarak and his associates. [44404]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The Egyptian authorities have provided us, and other countries, with a list of names in relation to freezing the assets of several members of the former regime. However, it is our policy not to disclose the names of such people to avoid assets being moved. If evidence of illegality or misuse of state assets is shown to exist and provided to us, we will take firm and prompt action. The EU is also considering the options available to respond to the Egyptian authorities.

Financial institutions are required under the money laundering regulations to do enhanced due diligence with individuals who hold prominent public functions and to report suspicious activity to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. These obligations have been stressed over the course of recent events by both Her Majesty's Treasury and the Financial Services Authority with the banks and others.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the treatment of Christians in Iraq in the last 12 months. [43184]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received and continues to receive regular representations from parliamentarians and members of the public about the situation for Christians in Iraq. The number of representations rose sharply after the tragic attacks against Christian groups in October and November 2010.

We continue to urge the Iraqi Government to protect and ensure the security of all Iraqis, including Christians. Other EU countries, including Italy and France, have also co-ordinated their responses with the UK.

Iraq: Minority Groups

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the human rights of Iraqi Turkmen; and if he will make a statement. [43072]

Alistair Burt: We continue to encourage the Iraqi Government to promote and protect the rights and freedoms of all Iraqi citizens, including the Turkmen community. In recent months we have urged the Iraqi Government to ensure the security of all its communities and deal appropriately with those responsible for any acts of violence and intimidation due to political, ethnic or religious affiliation.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials meet regularly with representatives from different Iraqi communities, including the Turkmen community. We will continue to listen to their concerns and do what we can to help improve the human rights situation in Iraq.

Lebanon: Capital Punishment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on persons sentenced to death in Lebanon for intelligence gathering for Israel; and if he will make a statement. [43818]

Alistair Burt: We are currently aware of seven individuals who have been sentenced to death for Israeli related spying activities, the most recent being on 17 February 2011.

We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle because we believe it undermines human dignity; there is no conclusive evidence of its deterrent value; and any miscarriage of justice leading to its imposition is irreversible and irreparable.

There is no reliable evidence to support the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to serious crime; numerous academic studies have failed to establish that execution deters more than the prospect of a long sentence.

Libya: Politics and Government

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the political situation in Libya. [44906]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Minister for Europe continue to be in regular contact with EU counterparts on the situation in Libya. In particular, the Secretary of State had detailed discussions with the new French Foreign Minister in Paris on 3 March 2011.

We have succeeded in pushing the EU to adopt a tough package of sanctions against Libya, including an asset freeze, visa ban, arms embargo and embargo on equipment used for internal repression.

The next high-level meeting will be an emergency European Council meeting convened for 11 March 2011 to discuss developments in Libya, as well as other countries in north Africa and the middle east.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whom the Government recognises as the de jure government of Libya. [44957]

Alistair Burt: We have called for the end of Colonel Gaddafi's regime and to that end we are taking every step possible to isolate the Gaddafi regime, deprive it of money, shrink its power and ensure that anyone responsible for abuses in Libya will be held to account.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whom the Government recognises as the de jure government of Libya under the Vienna Convention. [44958]

Alistair Burt: The Vienna convention on diplomatic relations does not contain any provisions on recognition of governments.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the blockade in Gaza. [44466]

Alistair Burt: Although we no longer assess that there is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza we have long been clear that the status quo is a tragedy, unsustainable and counterproductive.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, raised the situation in Gaza with Prime Minister Netanyahu when he visited Israel in November 2010. The Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa discussed Gaza at length with the Israeli Coordinator for Government Activity in the Territories (COGAT), General Dangot, when he visited the region on 16-19 January 2011. Officials at our embassy in Tel Aviv raise Gaza access with the Government of Israel on a regular basis.

There has been an increase in the quantity and variety of goods entering Gaza. But we continue to call on Israel to ensure the unconditional opening of crossing for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons. We also look to Israel to speed up the approvals process for dual-use items and accelerate key imports for UN led reconstruction.

We welcome steps such as Israel's approval of the 20 projects in Gaza including the seven UN Relief and Works Agency schools they announced on 4 February 2011. We continue to press for further such steps.

Middle East: EU External Relations

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 434-5W, on the Middle East: peace negotiations, when the European Commission next plans to review its association agreements with *(a)* Lebanon, *(b)* Tunisia, *(c)* Morocco and *(d)* Algeria. [43395]

Alistair Burt: The European External Action Service and European Commission publish annual European Neighbourhood Policy reports covering all partner countries, including Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. While we do not have a fixed date for publication in 2011, last year's reports were published in May 2010.

The latest assessments by country are at:

http://eeas.europa.eu/countries/index_en.htm

Until the annual European Neighbourhood Policy report is published we are unable to make an assessment on the progress made.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Palestinian Authority to encourage it to recognise the religious and historical significance of the Western Wall to Jewish people; and if he will make a statement. [42063]

Alistair Burt: We strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the full implementation of the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Jerusalem holds particular significance for many people worldwide especially the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Islam and Christianity. It is crucial that the parties come to an agreement whereby Jerusalem can be a shared capital of both an Israeli and a Palestinian state.

We make our views on these issues clear to both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. We continue to call for restraint and the avoidance of provocative actions from both sides in and around Jerusalem.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with governments in the Middle East on the boycott by Hamas of Israeli goods in Gaza. [43097]

Alistair Burt: Given wider changes across the region, our recent contacts with Governments in the Middle East have focused on the challenges and opportunities these changes present. We have not discussed the issue cited.

Muammar al-Gaddafi

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the decision was taken to publicise reports that Colonel Gaddafi had travelled to Venezuela. [43914]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* I responded to a question from the media when leaving the European Union Foreign Affairs Council on 21 February 2011. In this, I noted that I had no information that Colonel Gaddafi had travelled to Venezuela, but had seen some information that suggested he may have travelled there.

Palestinians: Elections

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to support the holding of elections in the Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement. [44563]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend, the Minister of State, the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford, of 9 February 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA70.

Palestinians: Security Forces

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1001W, on Palestinians: security forces, what proportion of the Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool was used to assist the US Security Co-ordinator for Israel and the Palestinian territories in the training of Palestinian security forces in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [44616]

Alistair Burt: The proportion of Middle East and North Africa Conflict Pool (MENA CP) funding provided to assist the US Security Co-ordinator through the deployment of the British support team in Ramallah for each of the years referred to is:

Financial year	*Percentage*
2008-09	33
2009-10	16
2010-11	18

The proportion of the funding out of the MENA CP allocation for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories specifically was:

Financial year	*Percentage*
2008-09	57
2009-10	68
2010-11	60

Final funding for 2010-11 is not confirmed and is based on the provisional allocation.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the Chair of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia; and what steps he plans to take in response to those conclusions. [45126]

Mr Bellingham: We support fully the conclusions of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) at its November 2010 plenary meeting.

The UK supports the strong leadership role of the CGPCS in co-ordinating the international response to piracy, and is leading the response to current operational and regional maritime capability issues through its chairmanship of CGPCS Working Group 1.

Special Tribunal for Lebanon

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon is able to continue its work in safety. [43198]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have both underlined our support for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. We have called for the Tribunal to be allowed to carry out its work without hindrance or impediment and for all sides to co-operate constructively and not interfere with due process. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated that:

> "The UK looks for a government that is formed in accordance with Lebanon's constitution; that commands the broadest possible support of the people of Lebanon; that upholds its international obligations including the Special Tribunal and an end to impunity for assassinations".

As the chair, and a member, of the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal, the UK continues to provide active support on all financial and administrative issues, including supporting tribunal efforts to ensure the safety of its staff.

Sri Lanka: Languages

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on attempts by the government of Sri Lanka to ensure language rights of citizens in *(a)* Tamil-speaking and *(b)* other areas of that country. [44236]

Alistair Burt: Following my recent visit to Sri Lanka, I am aware of concerns regarding language barriers, including access by Tamil-speaking Sri Lankans to government services. The Sri Lankan Government have recognised this issue and are seeking to ensure more state officials are able to speak Tamil. During 2010 the police force launched recruitment drives to attract 1,500 Tamil civilians into the police force. The UK, with the Sri Lankan Government's consent, has provided Tamil language training to over 300 police personnel. Through the British Council we have also conducted training of trainers and provided Tamil language learning materials for the security forces.

One of the interim recommendations for the Sri Lankan Government's 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' is to provide interpreters to assist with overcoming language barriers. We welcome this recommendation and the Sri Lankan Government's efforts to improve access to government services for all communities.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to support the national reconciliation process in Sri Lanka. [45110]

Alistair Burt: We believe that the best way to achieve lasting and equitable peace in Sri Lanka is through an inclusive political solution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict and takes into account the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all Sri Lanka's communities.

During my visit to Sri Lanka last month I met with senior government officials and raised this issue. We hope the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission can play a role in the post-conflict reconciliation process. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government, and their people, to shape a sustainable national reconciliation process.

Tibet

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the constitutional status of Tibet. [42821]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government recognise Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43239]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a strong tradition of voluntary work, ranging from individuals getting involved with their local communities to whole departments undertaking voluntary activities in the UK and throughout our overseas network. The amount of time given varies according to the nature of the activity, but all employees are offered up to five days special paid leave a year to volunteer. Examples of some of the voluntary activity undertaken by individual members of staff granted special paid leave are:

Youth Educator, Envision Project;

Participation in reintegration project for young ex-convicts;

Facilitation of Royal Commonwealth Society Commonwealth Youth Summits;

Event promotion for Croydon Community Against Trafficking.

Our special unpaid leave policy (SUPL) allows staff, among other things, to work outside the FCO, for example with a non-governmental organisation for a period of up to five years.

The FCO has a policy in place where staff can contribute to their chosen charity via a Give as You Earn/Payroll Giving scheme. Each year the FCO provides several reminders to staff how effective contributions via their payroll in either regular or single donations can be, especially for higher rate taxpayers. There are currently over 300 employees in the FCO who have signed up to payroll giving, with around 21 charities represented, including the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Cancer Research, Help for Heroes and the UN Children's Fund. In financial year 2009-10 FCO staff donated over £100,000.

Yemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official visits Ministers from his Department have made to Yemen since 1997; and for what purpose. [43982]

Alistair Burt: Since 1997 the following Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have visited Yemen to further bilateral relations and discuss mutual areas of concern:

Dr Kim Howells, FCO Minister of State: January 2006

Dr Kim Howells, FCO Minister of State: May 2008

Ivan Lewis, FCO Minister of State: February 2010

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited in February 2011.

I visited Yemen in June 2010.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of his recent visit to Yemen; what matters were discussed during his meeting with President Ali Abdullah Saleh; and if he will make a statement. [44260]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met President Saleh in Yemen on 9 February and delivered clear messages to the Government there.

Firstly, we want the Government of Yemen to make progress on national dialogue with the opposition parties, including agreement on implementing much needed political and economic reform and action to address the legitimate grievances of the Yemeni people.

Secondly, we have asked for a prioritised and budgeted Development Plan for Poverty Reduction from the Yemeni Government so that we, and other donors, can establish an appropriate financing mechanism for Yemen and be confident that funds are properly used.

Finally, the Secretary of State called for intensified Yemeni efforts to disrupt the al-Qaeda threat on their territory and further action to resolve internal grievances and conflicts.

We will discuss progress on these issues at the next Friends of Yemen meeting in March.

JUSTICE

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45071]

Mr Djanogly: The percentage of payments made within 10 days to all suppliers for the month of January and February 2011 are shown in the following table.

	Percentage
January 2011	93
February 2011	95

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45070]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has not sold and leased back any assets in the last 12 months.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44222]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was created in May 2007 by combining the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office. All data given are from that date onwards as it would incur disproportionate costs to give data from the DCA and Home Office.

The MoJ has no contracts with the Electoral Reform Service.

The Electoral Reform Services has carried out some consultancy work for the MoJ. The invoice dates and costs are as follows:

	£
23 December 2010	1,349.08
21 December 2009	2,517.54
8 December 2008	751.62

European Court of Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to seek reform of the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights. [44151]

Mr Djanogly: The United Kingdom was one of the 11 original signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights on 4 November 1950. The United Kingdom is bound by the European Convention and has recognised the jurisdiction and agreed to abide by the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights since 14 January 1966.

The Government are committed to supporting and building on the process of court reform already under way in Strasbourg.

As part of the reform process, the Government would wish to see a strengthening of the principle of subsidiarity. That is, that the Convention should principally be implemented at a national level. The Government will work with other member states of the Council of Europe and the Court, including through our Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (November 2011-May 2012), to find ways to give further practical effect to this principle in the Convention system.

Human Rights: EU Action

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the timetable for the proposed accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights. [44467]

Mr Djanogly: No such discussions have taken place to date with EU ministerial counterparts. Discussions are continuing in official working groups to agree the details for accession. The Government will need to be sure that any accession agreement neither enlarges the competences of the Union nor negatively affects the position of the United Kingdom and other member states in relation to the ECHR. The Government will continue to participate fully in discussions about accession with these principles in mind.

Legal Aid Scheme: Payments

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments were made to the 20 *(a)* firms and *(b)* barristers who received the highest total level of payments from the (i) criminal defence service scheme and (ii) the community legal service scheme in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [44882]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to provide the information in the time available. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy in the House of Commons Library.

Legal Aid: Fees and Charges

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that legal aid recipients pay their legal fees once they are financially able to do so. [44254]

Mr Djanogly: The statutory charge has been an essential feature since the legal aid scheme was originally established in 1949. Where a legally aided client is wholly or partly successful in recovering or preserving goods or property, the charge converts legal aid from a grant into a loan.

The Ministry of Justice recently conducted a consultation on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales, which closed on 14 February 2011. We are now carefully considering the responses that we have received, and will publish our response in due course. The consultation proposals can be viewed online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm

Magistrates Courts: Skipton

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with representatives of HM Court Service on the consultation on the future of administrative provision at Skipton magistrates court. [44691]

Mr Djanogly: The deployment of court staff and resources at a local level is principally a matter for HMCS management rather than Ministers. I am aware however that HMCS is currently consulting on proposals regarding administrative provision at the Skipton courthouse and believe that these proposals, if they proceed, would increase its utilisation and efficiency.

Pleural Plaques Extra-statutory Scheme

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications his Department has received under the pleural plaques extra-statutory scheme to date. [44312]

Mr Djanogly: The extra-statutory scheme opened for applications on 2 August 2010 and, as of 25 February, a total of 6,991 applications have been registered.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time taken is for an application to be processed under the pleural plaques extra-statutory scheme. [44313]

Mr Djanogly: The average time taken to process an application based on completed cases is currently 42 working days. This includes the time that applicants are given to provide supporting information as well as the time that they are given to consider the offer before advising their acceptance. Separate figures for these stages are not available.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been any liaison between those responsible for administering the pleural plaques extra-statutory scheme and HM Revenue and Customs National Insurance Contributions Office Special Section A on the provision of employment history schedules for submission by applicants to the scheme. [44391]

Mr Djanogly: For applications under the pleural plaques scheme to be considered, it is important that applicants provide verifiable independent evidence of their employment history. In cases where applicants do not have any other proof of their employment history provision of an HM Revenue and Customs employment schedule is necessary. The onus is on the applicant or their representative to obtain and provide this. My officials have spoken to HM Revenue and Customs and they are aware of the position.

Prisoners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the position of the UK in international comparator tables on levels of imprisonment. [44605]

Mr Blunt: A table showing the prison population of England and Wales compared with EU and other selected countries was published on 22 July 2010 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (shown in tables 7.15). This can be found in the House Library and at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Additionally, the data can be seen in the following table. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 7.15 Prison population[1] international comparisons with other EU countries and selected other countries 2003-09

Country	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Percentage change 2008-09*	*Rate[20] per 100,000 population in 2009*
England and Wales[2]	72,992	75,057	76,896	79,085	80,692	83,406	84,116	1	153
Northern Ireland[3]	1,160	1,274	1,301	1,433	1,468	1,507	1,468	-3	82
Scotland[3]	6,524	6,805	6,792	7,111	7,291	7,741	7,928	2	153
Austria	7,816	9,000	8,767	8,780	8,887	7,899	8,423	7	101
Belgium[4]	9,308	9,245	9,375	9,635	10,008	9,858	10,159	3	94
Bulgaria[5]	9,422	10,066	10,871	11,436	11,058	10,271	9,408	-8	124
Cyprus[6]	355	546	536	599	673	671	700	4	88
Czech Republic[7]	17,277	18,343	18,937	18,578	18,901	20,502	21,734	6	207
Denmark	3,577	3,762	4,132	3,759	3,406	3,451	3,881	12	70
Estonia[5]	4,352	4,576	4,565	4,411	4,327	3,467	3,656	5	273
Finland[7]	3,463	3,535	3,883	3,477	3,370	3,457	3,231	-7	60
France[8]	57,440	56,271	56,595	55,754	60,677	62,843	61,787	-2	96
Germany[9]	81,176	81,166	80,410	78,581	75,719	75,056	73,592	-2	90
Greece[10]	8,555	8,760	9,589	10,113	11,120	11,798	11,080	-6	98
Hungary[7]	16,507	16,543	15,720	14,821	14,353	14,736	15,373	4	153
Ireland[11]	2,986	3,083	3,022	3,080	3,305	3,523	4,009	14	89
Italy[7]	56,845	56,068	59,523	39,005	48,693	58,127	64,791	11	107
Latvia[5]	8,366	8,179	7,646	6,965	6,548	6,548	6,873	5	304
Lithuania[5]	11,070	8,063	8,125	8,137	8,079	7,866	8,000	2	239
Luxembourg	498	548	693	756	745	674	679	1	136
Malta[12]	278	277	298	346	387	412	480	17	116
Netherlands	18,242	20,075	21,826	20,463	18,103	16,416	15,676	-5	95
Poland[2]	80,692	79,344	82,656	87,669	90,199	84,549	85,598	1	225
Portugal[7]	13,835	13,152	12,889	12,636	11,587	10,830	11,099	2	104
Romania[7]	42,815	39,031	36,700	34,038	29,390	26,212	26,716	2	124
Slovakia[7]	8,873	9,422	8,897	8,249	7,986	8,166	9,316	14	172
Slovenia	1,099	1,126	1,132	1,301	1,336	1,317	1,360	3	66
Spain	55,244	59,224	61,269	64,120	66,400	71,778	76,509	7	164
Sweden[13]	6,755	7,332	7,054	7,175	6,770	6,853	7,286	6	78
European Union 27	607,522	609,873	620,099	601,513	611,478	619,934	634,866	2	127
Croatia[5]	2,732	2,803	3,022	3,485	3,833	4,290	4,734	10	107
Iceland	112	115	119	119	115	140	175	25	55
Norway	2,914	2,975	3,097	3,164	3,280	3,278	3,285	0	68
Russian Federation[5]	877,393	847,004	763,115	823,451	871,693	883,170	887,723	1	626
Switzerland[14]	5,214	5,977	6,137	5,888	5,715	5,780	6,084	5	79
Turkey[15]	64,051	71,148	54,296	67,795	85,865	99,416	113,493	14	157
Ukraine[16]	198,386	193,489	179,519	165,716	154,055	145,946	146,394	0	320
Australia[17]	23,555	24,171	25,353	25,790	27,224	27,615	29,317	6	134
Brazil[18]	308,304	336,358	361,402	401,236	422,590	451,429	473,626	5	243
Canada[19]	35,868	34,155	34,365	35,436	37,326	38,348	39,132	2	117
Japan[7]	73,734	76,413	79,052	81,255	83,518	80,523	78,952	-2	62
Korea (Rep. of)[3]	58,945	57,184	52,403	46,721	46,313	46,684	49,467	6	102
Mexico[7]	182,530	193,889	205,821	210,140	212,841	219,754	224,749	2	204
New Zealand[3]	6,059	6,556	7,100	7,595	7,959	7,763	8,287	7	192
South Africa[9]	189,748	187,640	187,394	150,302	161,639	165,840	165,230	0	335

Table 7.15 Prison population[1] international comparisons with other EU countries and selected other countries 2003-09

Country	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Percentage change 2008-09*	*Rate[20] per 100,000 population in 2009*
U.S.A.[17]	2,082,728	2,129,802	2,183,152	2,245,189	2,296,133	2,308,561	2,297,400	0	748

[1] At 1 September: number of prisoners, including pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners.
[2] At 31 August.
[3] Annual averages. Countries calculate these on the basis of daily, weekly or monthly figures.
[4] At 1 March.
[5] At 1 January.
[6] At 1 September (2003-08), August (2009).
[7] At 31 December.
[8] Metropolitan and overseas departments and territories.
[9] At 31 March.
[10] At 1 September (2003, 05-06, 08-09), December (2004), November (2007).
[11] At 1 September (2003-08), 9 October (2009).
[12] At 1 September (2003-06), annual average (2007-08), 22 June (2009).
[13] At 1 October.
[14] At first Wednesday in September.
[15] At 1 September (2003-08), 31 August (2009).
[16] At 1 September (2003-07, 09), 31 December (2008).
[17] At 30 June.
[18] At December.
[19] Annual averages by financial year (e.g. 2009 = 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009).
[20] Based on estimates of national population.

Note:

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level. See Technical appendix of report for fuller information.

Sources:

Ministries responsible for prisons, national prison administrations, national statistical offices, Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE), World Prison Population List (Roy Walmsley) and World Prison Brief (International Centre for Prison Studies)

Prisoners: Clothing

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* clothing, *(b)* footwear and *(c)* hygienic, cosmetic and related sundry products for prisoners in each of the last five years. [44288]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) central accounting system holds expenditure on the provision of clothing and considerable other consumable items for use by prisoners in summary form only. In order to provide details of expenditure on the provision of clothing, footwear, and hygienic, cosmetic and related sundry projects for use by prisoners would require manually examining a large volume of records at individual establishments. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Education

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are undertaking courses of an undergraduate degree level or higher; and by what mechanism the fees for these courses are paid. [44286]

Mr Blunt: In the 2010-11 financial year to date 1,609 prisoners in England and Wales have registered to start an Open University (OU)[1] course module. In addition, about 5[2] are currently studying at undergraduate level at other higher education institutions, none of whom are funded from statutory funds.

Fees for the courses are paid through three separate systems.

1. Course fees for initial OU study for prisoners are paid by the Prisoners Education Trust using funds from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, operating to a capped budget.

2. When prisoners have successfully completed initial courses, most will be eligible for an income-assessed OU fee waiver which is funded through the HEFCE[3] Access to Learning Fund operating within the OU.

3. Some prisoners receive funding for course fees from charitable funds provided by Prisoners Education Trust, the Longford Trust and other charities.

4. A few prisoners self-fund.

The Government's review of offender learning, which will report shortly, will cover higher education arrangements for prisoners.

[1] Source: Prisoners' Education Trust, February 2011.

[2] Based on data held; there may be additional students who self-fund or access student loans.

[3] Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Prisoners: Mass Media

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 979-80W, on prisoners: interviews, how many prisoners have *(a)* requested and *(b)* been granted approval for face-to-face interviews since July 2010; in which prison each such prisoner was located; and for what offence each such prisoner was serving a sentence; [44248]

(2) what arrangements are in place to control written communications between prisoners and the media; [44249]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the involvement of media liaison officers in communications between prisoners and the media in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many media liaison officers are employed for *(a)* the purpose of communications between prisoners and the media and *(b)* other purposes; [44295]

(4) who was consulted on Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 37/2010 on prisoners' access to the media prior to its publication; whether any of those consultees represent victims of crime; what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of PSI 37/2010; and what assessment he has made of the effects of policy on the number of contacts between prisoners and the media; [44296]

(5) whether all prisons have implemented Prison Service Instruction 37/2010 on prisoners' access to the media; [44297]

(6) what action has been taken against *(a)* prison staff, *(b)* journalists and *(c)* prisoners who have been involved in unsanctioned communications between prisoners and the media in the last 12 months; [44298]

(7) what provisions are in place for victims of crime to be consulted when prisoners convicted of offences that have affected them make requests to have contact with the media; and if he will review Prison Service Instruction 37/2010 on prisoners' access to the media to provide more rights and information for the victims of crimes perpetrated by prisoners seeking access to media outlets. [44299]

Mr Blunt: Since 2 July 2010, four prisoners have requested face to face interviews with journalists. The details of these are set out in the following table:

Prison	*Offence*	*Outcome*
Birmingham	Child sex offences	Refused
Bronzefield	Murder	Refused
Frankland	Murder	Still under consideration
Askham Grange	Perverting course of public justice	Still under consideration

Prisoners do not need permission from the governor to send or receive letters from the media, but correspondence which is intended for publication or for use by radio or television or for posting on the internet (or which if sent, would be likely to be published or broadcast) must not contain material which:

> is for publication in return for payment (unless the prisoner is unconvicted);
>
> is about the prisoner's own crime or past offences or those of others, except where it consists of serious representations about conviction or sentence or forms part of serious comment about crime, the processes of justice or the penal system;
>
> refers to individual prisoners or members of prison staff in such a way that they might be identified;
>
> is likely to appear in a publication associated with a person or organisation if there is reason to believe that the person or organisation concerned is planning or engaged in activities which present a genuine and serious threat to security or good order of the establishment or other prisons;
>
> contravenes any of the other restrictions on content applying to letters in general which are set out in Prison Service Order 4411 (which is available in the Libraries of both Houses).

Outside the high security estate, outgoing mail is only routinely read in exceptional circumstances, but may be read where it is thought likely that a prisoner may attempt to send out letters that breach the rules on correspondence. A percentage of outgoing mail is read at random.

The function of media liaison officer will be only a small part of the daily duties of the person to whom the role is assigned and it is not possible to estimate the cost incurred. There will normally be one media liaison officer for each prison.

The unauthorised disclosure of information to any third party by staff, if proved, would constitute a breach of the NOMS staff code of conduct.

Records indicate that in the last 12 months one member of staff was dismissed from the service for the unauthorised disclosure of prisoner related information to the press.

Prisoners who breach the rules relating to contact with the media will be dealt with under the internal disciplinary procedures, and are likely to face additional monitoring of their correspondence in future. There are no records kept centrally about the number of prisoners who have been found to have made unauthorised contact with the press or journalists.

Governors can restrict future access to prisoners or prisons by journalists who have engaged in authorised contact with prisoners.

A range of internal and external stakeholders were consulted on the instruction on Prisoners' Access to the Media (PSI 37/2010), in line with NOMS instructions on the approval and implementation of instructions. No consultees specifically represented victims of crime. There has been no review of the effects of introducing the updated policy. The instruction makes clear that face to face or telephone contact with journalists will only take place in exceptional circumstances and we do not expect a large increase in the number of contacts between prisoners and the media.

Prison Service Instruction 37/2010 Prisoners' Access to the Media was issued to all prisons on 2 July 2010 and they were required to implement it from 12 July. Governors were instructed to inform prisoners as well as all staff, particularly Media Liaison Officers, of the updated policy.

The restrictions set out on the content and use of letters are designed to prevent distress to victims. Governors may only permit a prisoner to have contact by telephone with a journalist if they are satisfied it will not cause distress to the victim or their family. Approval for a visit by a journalist will normally only be granted following consideration of the impact on the victim. Any decision to grant an interview must be communicated to victim liaison officers (where there are victims of sexual or violent offences and where the offender received a sentence of 12 months or more and in those cases where the offender was diagnosed with a particular mental disorder) who must tell the victim or their family. There are no plans to review the policy on prisoner access to the media at present.

Prisoners: Publications

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the provision of *(a)* libraries, *(b)* books, *(c)* newspapers, *(d)* magazines and *(e)* periodicals for use by prisoners in each year for which figures are available. [44342]

Mr Blunt: The following table provides expenditure on library services for use by prisoners over the last five financial years.

	£ million
2006-07	5.4
2007-08	5.5
2008-09	6.7
2009-10	7.3
2010-11	7.6

The figures for 2010-11 are based on forecasts as at January 2011.

The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) central accounting system holds expenditure details on the provision of library services for use by prisoners in summary format. The expenditure figures provided include contracted out library services, staffing costs, library capitation (stock) fees, subscriptions and affiliation fees. The NOMS accounting system does not separate expenditure into books, newspapers, magazines and periodicals. This information could be obtained only by examining local records manually at each establishment at disproportionate costs.

Prisoners: Sports

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on leisure and sports facilities for prisoners in each of the last five years. [44289]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows expenditure on the provision of prisoners' recreational activities in each of the last five years.

	£ million
2006-07	3.7
2007-08	4.3
2008-09	5.0
2009-10	5.7
2010-11	4.1

The figures for 2010-11 are based on forecast as at January 2011.

The National Offender Management Service's central accounting system holds expenditure details on the provision of prisoners' recreational activities in summary form, which includes the cost of religious education. It does not separate this into leisure and sports facilities. This information could be obtained by examining local records manually at each establishment only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Voluntary Work

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were engaged in voluntary work in each of the last five years. [44287]

Mr Blunt: Statistical information on the voluntary work undertaken by prisoners is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by obtaining information held on offender files, or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format.

Prisons: Homicide

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many murders have been committed in prisons in each of the last 10 years; [44276]

(2) what steps the Prison Service has taken to ensure the safety of those in prison from physical attack from other prisoners. [44277]

Mr Blunt: NOMS is fully committed to a zero tolerance approach to violence in prisons.

There have been 15 prisoner on prisoner homicides since 2000, which is fewer than two per year. In that time the prison population increased from 64,600 in 2000 to 85,500 in 2010 (September).

Prison homicides by year

	Number
2000	3
2001	0
2002	0
2003	1
2004	2
2005	3
2006	0
2007	2
2008	3
2009	0
2010	1

There has been one alleged homicide in 2011.

Every homicide is regrettable. NOMS is committed to learning the lessons from each death. In 2002 and following the murder of Zahid Mubarek at HMYOI Feltham, the Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA) process was introduced. All prisoners are assessed for the risk they pose to other prisoners prior to being allocated a cell. The CSRA has been reviewed. The improved process will be implemented in April 2011. Alongside the CSRA, all prisons have a violence reduction strategy in place.

Probation Officers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the probation service has recorded any incidents of threats to probation staff when those staff have not been on duty in the last 12 months. [44309]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not collected centrally. Obtaining it would involve making enquiries of each of the 35 Probation Trusts, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Brighton, Pavilion

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Brighton, Pavilion constituency the effects of his Department's policies on *(a)* the resettlement of young offenders and *(b)* youth reoffending rates since May 2010. [44634]

Mr Blunt: The geographical area covered by Brighton and Hove Youth Offending Service (YOS) is different from that covered by Brighton, Pavilion parliamentary constituency and all data collected by the YJB are by youth offending team (YOT) area.

Data applicable to the period since May 2010 are not yet available as all such data are published annually and retrospectively.

The following question was received and intended for publication on 1 March 2011:

Legal Aid: Contracts

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil contracts to provide legal services were awarded by his Department in 2007; and how many such contracts were still active in the latest period for which figures are available. [42914]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for the administration of civil contract awards.

The Unified Contract (Civil) was introduced in April 2007. As at 31 March 2008, there were 2,734 organisations delivering services under the Unified Contract (Civil) 2007.

There are currently 1,776 organisations delivering services under an extension of the Unified Contract until 30 November 2011 in family and family with housing categories only. In addition, from 15 November 2010, 1,100 organisations were awarded new Standard Civil Contracts in all civil non-family work.

As there are effectively two types of contract operating for civil and family categories of law, there may be some duplication in numbers of current contracts as some organisations will be delivering services under both types of contract.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 9 March 2011

SCOTLAND

Human Trafficking

15. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on levels of cross-border human trafficking. [44089]

David Mundell: The UK Government continue to work closely with the Scottish Government on this tissue. The Scottish Government are involved in ongoing work to combat human trafficking issues across the United Kingdom, through the Government's Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group.

Bank Lending

Mr David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of levels of bank lending to small and medium-sized businesses in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [44088]

Michael Moore: The Chancellor of the Exchequer told the House that the coalition Government have agreed that the major banks will increase lending to small and medium-sized businesses by £10 billion this year. This deal could unlock additional lending of around £800 million for small businesses in Scotland.

WALES

Departmental Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many procurement projects with a monetary value greater than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £50 million and *(c)* £100 million her Department was engaged upon in the latest period for which figures are available. [45692]

Mr David Jones: None.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which procurement projects engaged upon by her Department had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case. [45693]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office obtains its services through the Ministry of Justice and consequently does not undertake procurement projects.

Future Jobs Fund: Wales

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment her Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* commissioned from other Departments of the performance of the Future Jobs Fund in Wales. [44649]

Mr David Jones: Policy on the Future Jobs Fund is a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions. The coalition Government assessed that the £1 billion fund, which was always designed to be a temporary measure, was an expensive short-term fix to get young people off the benefits register by creating temporary short-term jobs. Grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent jobs.

This Government have decided to focus instead on getting people back into permanent employment rather than providing temporary, public-funded work placements, by investing instead in long-term sustainable apprenticeship opportunities across all sectors.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment her Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* commissioned from other Departments on the effect on recipients in Wales of changes to housing benefit. [44648]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales has raised with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the issue of the estimated impact on recipients in Wales of the range of measures included in the Welfare Reform Bill. My Department has also discussed with the Department for Work and Pensions the specific changes to housing benefit coming into effect in April 2011.

Specific information about the impact of changes to housing benefit as a result of the Welfare Reform Bill is available in the impact assessments produced for the Bill. Where estimates are available this includes the estimated number of claimants in Wales affected. The impact assessments are available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/

Information on the estimated impact in Wales of changes to the local housing allowance coming into effect in April 2011 is also available in the impact assessments available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-impact-nov10.pdf

Unemployment: Young People

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment her Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* commissioned from other Departments on trends in the level of youth unemployment in Wales. [44647]

Mr David Jones: Statistics on the labour market situation in Wales are published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. The latest data for January 2011 show there are 24,600 young people aged 18 to 24 claiming jobseekers allowance in Wales. This is a fall of 3,600 or 12.6% compared to a year ago. By comparison, youth unemployment levels in Wales increased by around 30% from Q2 1997 to Q2 2010.

This Government remain extremely concerned about youth unemployment and are determined to deal with their legacy in Wales. Our approach is to ensure that young unemployed people get the personalised help they need to find permanent jobs. As part of our reform of the welfare system we are introducing a number of measures to support young people to find employment. Jobcentre Plus local offices are being given more control to allow them to deliver a more personalised service in a way that is more responsive to local needs. Under the Work Programme, providers will be free to design support based on the needs of individuals and target the right support at the right time. Both Jobcentre Plus and Work Programme providers will work with local public, private, and third sector organisations where this delivers the best job outcomes for individuals.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Private Members' Bills

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to announce proposed dates of Fridays after 17 June 2011 on which Private Members' Bills may have precedence; and if he will make a statement. [44686]

Sir George Young: The Government will bring forward a motion to increase the number of sitting Fridays in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45097]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office paid 98% in January 2011 and 99% in February 2011 of undisputed invoices to suppliers within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45096]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has sold no assets for leaseback over the last 12 months.

Fuels: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on *(a)* the cost of fuel in Northern Ireland and *(b)* the introduction of a fuel price stabiliser. [44560]

Mr Paterson: Northern Ireland Ministers, the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office and I met with the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury last month where these matters were discussed.

JUSTICE

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43751]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All external audit services are provided by the National Audit Office, except where indicated otherwise.

The following information is from the consolidated[1] resource accounts for the MoJ and specified Executive agencies and associated offices:

	2009-10	*2008-09*	£ *2007-08*
MoJ	1,557,000	1,796,000	1,411,000

Non-departmental public bodies

Public body	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	£ *2007-08*
Criminal Cases Review Commission	27,000	21,000	16,000
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	82,000	81,000	73,000
HM Prison Service	[3]—	[3]—	190,000
Judicial Appointments Commission	38,000	37,000	38,000
Legal Services Board	21,000	15,000	[4]—
Legal Services Commission	353,000	250,000	157,000
Offices of Court Funds	[1]—	[3]—	[3]—
Office of the Information Commissioner	33,500	29,500	24,000
Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman	11,500	11,000	10,500
Office for Legal Complaints	28.000	[5]—	[5]—
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Parole Board	21,000	20,500	17,000
Probation Service[2]	[6]1,530,000	[6]1,520,000	[6]1,480,000

Non-departmental public bodies

£

Public body	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales	42,000	42,000	42,000

[1] Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian (formerly the Public Guardian's Office) and the National Offender Management Service, Court Funds Office, Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner, HM Inspectorate of Courts Administration, Inspectorate of Prisons, Inspectorate of Probation, Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice, Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman, Office for Judicial Complaints, Directorate of Judicial Offices for England and Wales, the Boundary Commission and the Law Commission.

[2] There are 42 Probation Boards and Trusts across England and Wales. Their figures have been combined.

[3] Part of the consolidated accounts.

[4] Did not exist.

[5] Agency did not exist.

[6] For 2009-10 the following audit services were used by the Probation Boards/Trusts:
The Audit Commission audited 29 Probation Boards/Trusts
Welsh Audit Office audited four Probation Boards/Trusts
Deloitte audited three Probation Boards/Trusts
KPMG audited three Probation Boards/Trusts
PricewaterhouseCoopers audited three Probation Boards/Trusts
For 2008-09 the following audit services were used by the Probation Boards/Trusts:
Audit Commission: 29 Probation Boards/Trusts
Deloitte: Three Probation Boards/Trusts
KPMG: Three Probation Boards/Trusts
PricewaterhouseCoopers: Three Probation Boards/Trusts
Welsh Audit Office: Four Probation Boards/Trusts

The data on audit services used by the Probation Boards/Trusts in 2007-08 are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to gather from local offices.

The cost of external and internal audits is included in the annual accounts of each Government Department and associated body.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department, (ii) other Departments in respect of which his Department manages those functions and (iii) each (A) agency and (B) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43965]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Cabinet Office has published procurement costs of all Government Departments for 2009-10 at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/back-office-benchmark-information-200910

MoJ HQ and its executive agencies[1] have a shared services procurement function. Any outsourcing for MoJ HQ and the executive agencies would be handled by the procurement team. In the financial year 2009-10, the procurement function (staff and operating costs) for MoJ and its executive agencies cost £13.3 million.

The NDPBs' costs were as follows:

£

NDPB	*Procurement cost*	*Outsourcing cost*
Criminal Cases Review Commission	0	0
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	[2]0	[2]0
Information Commissioner's Office	20,294	0
Judicial Appointments Commission	0	0
Legal Services Board	0	0
Legal Services Commission	781,658	0
Office for Legal Complaints	0	0
Parole Board	0	0
Youth Justice Board	88,000	0

Other Departments the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has jurisdiction over:

£

NDPB	*Procurement cost*	*Outsourcing cost*
The Land Registry	1,048,633	255,614
The National Archives	191,783	0

[1] The executive agencies are Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the Office of the Public Guardian and the National Offender Management Service.

[2] CICA does not have a procurement department. Two staff have procurement responsibilities as part of their overall job descriptions. One Band B is expected to give approximately 20% of their time to procurement related tasks, one Band D is expected to give approximately 10% of their time to procurement related tasks.

Note:
The Cabinet Office lists The National Archives and The Land Registry as being in the MoJ—they are separate organisations with their own funding arrangements.

Legal Aid Scheme: Bolton

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Bolton South East constituency and *(b)* Bolton received legal aid in each of the last five years. [44846]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The tables show the volumes of legal aid granted in each of the last five years based on legal aid providers with postcodes falling within *(a)* Bolton South East constituency and *(b)* the local authority area of Bolton.

The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone advice, Community Legal Advice Centres, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme, telephone triage, or family mediation. These figures are not available on a regional basis.

Bolton South East constituency—Legal aid volumes

Thousand

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	0.82	0.85	0.88	0.90	0.93
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	2.32	3.51	3.84	4.18	4.52
Crime Lower claim volumes	7.28	7.09	6.48	6.79	6.26
Crime Higher case volumes	0.81	0.83	0.83	0.89	0.79
Total	11.23	12.29	12.05	12.76	12.50

Bolton—Legal aid volumes

Thousand

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	0.92	0.97	0.97	0.98	1.03
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	2.57	3.86	4.11	4.42	4.85
Crime Lower claim volumes	7.46	7.27	6.67	6.95	6.41
Crime Higher case volumes	0.83	0.86	0.86	0.92	0.81
Total	11.77	12.96	12.60	13.26	13.10

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Manpower

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many people the Crown Prosecution Service expects to employ *(a)* at the end of March 2011 and *(b)* at the end of each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period; [44763]

(2) how many people the Crown Prosecution Service expects to employ as *(a)* prosecutors and *(b)* caseworkers and administrators supporting frontline prosecutions at (i) the end of March 2011 and (ii) the end of each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period; [44764]

(3) how many prosecutors the Crown Prosecution Service expects to employ who are *(a)* able to appear in the Crown court and higher courts and *(b)* able to present cases in magistrates court at (i) at the end of March 2011 and (ii) the end of each subsequent financial year in the comprehensive spending review period. [44765]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has not finalised its workforce plans for the comprehensive spending review period. Each CPS group and division is currently undertaking a more detailed planning exercise which is expected to be completed in May 2011.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Attorney-General what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) the Law Officers' Departments and (ii) the (A) agency and (B) other non-ministerial departments for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43964]

The Solicitor-General: Information on the procurement function costs for the Law Officers' Departments in the last full financial year are contained in the following table.

Department	*Recorded procurement function costs 2009-10 (£)*
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)	[1]692,087
Serious Fraud Office (SFO)	125,903
Treasury Solicitors Department (TSol)[2]	102,430
National Fraud Authority	4,857

[1] Data cover cost of the CPS central procurement team. Some minor procurement activity is carried out at local offices, but the associated costs could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

[2] The procurement section at TSol provides procurement/outsourcing services to TSol, AGO and HMCPSI. Neither AGO nor HMCPSI have dedicated procurement/outsourcing personnel.

None of the Law Officers' Departments currently operate any outsourcing function for procurement.

Departmental Redundancy

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service has spent in 2010-11 to date on redundancy costs. [44543]

The Solicitor-General: In the nine months to December 2010, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has spent a total of £2.5 million on the voluntary early retirement and voluntary early severance costs of staff leaving the Department in 2010-11. The CPS has followed a policy of voluntary early release in achieving staff reductions.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many people the Crown Prosecution Service expects to make redundant in each Crown Prosecution area in 2010-11; and from what roles he expects staff to be made redundant; [44607]

(2) how many people the Crown Prosecution Service has made redundant in each Crown Prosecution Service area in 2010-11 to date; and from what roles staff have been made redundant. [44766]

The Solicitor-General: In 2010-11 a voluntary early release (VER) scheme was launched for headquarters functions. It is anticipated that between 60 and 90 staff will be released on voluntary terms by end of March 2011.

An additional 30 people who were employed in a mixture of management and administrative roles have already left the Department earlier in the financial year on a voluntary basis. Three people have been released from east midlands, one from Yorkshire and Humberside, one from Wales and one from the south-east. The remaining 24 staff have been released from London headquarters.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many people the Crown Prosecution Service expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in 2010-11. [44608]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS expects between 90 and 120 staff to leave the Department under a voluntary early release scheme this financial year. The CPS does not expect to make any compulsory redundancies in this period.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how much funding the Crown Prosecution Service allocated to meet redundancy costs in 2010-11. [44609]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has currently allocated £6 million to meet the voluntary early release costs of staff leaving the department in 2011. The CPS has adhered to its policy of releasing staff on a voluntary basis and intends to maintain this policy in 2010-11.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many people the Crown Prosecution Service expects to make redundant in each Crown Prosecution area in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and from what roles staff are expected to be made redundant; [44610]

(2) how many people the Crown Prosecution Service expects to make *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [44611]

The Solicitor-General: Initial planning indicates that CPS will need to reduce staffing levels by 530 in 2011-12, 390 in 2012-13, 310 in 2013-14 and 220 in 2014-15 to achieve the required workforce reductions for financial year 2014-15. The CPS is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies, and these reductions will be achieved through not filling vacancies that arise through normal staff turnover and the application of voluntary early release schemes in the first three years of the comprehensive spending review period. The CPS anticipates that there will be reductions in all grades of staff

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how much funding has been allocated by the Crown Prosecution Service to meet redundancy costs in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [44612]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has allocated £14 million to meet the voluntary early release costs of staff in 2011-12.

Decisions on the detailed allocation of budgets for the years beyond 2011-12 have yet to be taken. For financial planning purposes the current highest estimate for the costs of early departure for the CPS is £40 million resource over the spending review period. The figure could reduce significantly if additional savings are achieved in other areas of expenditure or if staff turnover is higher than forecast.

Electronic Case Files

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General (1) what recent progress has been made by the Crown Prosecution Service in developing a full electronic case file system; and when he expects full electronic case files to be fully operational; [44613]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Justice and *(c)* the Law Society on the development of a full electronic case file system by the Crown Prosecution Service; and if he will make a statement. [44614]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers meet regularly with Ministers at the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, as well as the President of the Law Society, to discuss a range of issues.

Methods of digital working, including the use of the electronic case file, are being developed and tested at a number of sites across England and Wales. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) aims to make widespread use of the electronic case file from April 2012 onwards.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Energy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to install *(a)* solar panels or *(b)* renewable heat technologies on buildings occupied by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [45491]

Gregory Barker: The Department only has authority over one building, 3 Whitehall Place in London. There are no current plans to install solar panels or renewable heat technologies on this site. However, we are keeping this under review.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43321]

Gregory Barker: It is a Government commitment to ensure that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

DECC's catering services are provided through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DEFRA are introducing Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food and catering, which will be mandatory for central Government Departments and executive agencies and promoted to the wider public sector. The external review of the proposed GBS criteria ended on 24 January and DEFRA are taking account of all the responses before we finalise the standards this month.

DEFRA also published new guidance in January to help ensure that Government Departments and executive agencies source food meeting British or equivalent standards of production, subject to no overall increase in costs.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what method his Department uses to calculate food miles incurred by food sold in its refreshment outlets. [45487]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not calculate food miles incurred by food sold by the catering service providers on the DECC estate. However, our caterers, BaxterStorey, do offer a sustainable catering service, with a focus on fresh, local and seasonal produce. All meat, eggs and milk used are produced in the UK, and the frequency of deliveries is minimised.

Departmental Marketing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* marketing officers, *(c)* speech writers, *(d)* website managers and *(e)* other communications and marketing staff his Department directly employs. [45522]

Gregory Barker: As at 8 March 2011, DECC employed six press officers, five marketing officers, two speechwriters, four website managers and five other members of the Government Communications Network working across a range of disciplines.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department takes to encourage carbon off-setting for air travel undertaken by its Ministers and officials; and what scheme it uses. [45489]

Gregory Barker: The Department offsets all of its ministerial and official air travel through the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility (GCOF).

Information on GCOF can be found on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/co2_offsetting/gov_offsetting/gov_offsetling.aspx

Electricity Generation

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects on industrial electricity prices of his proposals for electricity market reform; and if he will make a statement. [45060]

Charles Hendry: On 16 December, Government launched consultations on a package of options for reforming the electricity market. The preferred package is to have a 'contract for difference' model for supporting low-carbon generation in combination with a targeted capacity mechanism, carbon price support and an emissions performance standard. Due to the high upfront costs and low running costs nature of most low carbon generating plant, the preferred package may increase business electricity prices and bills in the near term, but from the mid 2020s onwards prices are expected to be lower than they otherwise would be. Please see following table.

	Impact of the preferred electricity market reform package on industrial electricity prices (percentage)
2010	0
2011-15	1
2016-20	3
2021-25	7
2026-30	-5

Government are aware of industry concerns about competitiveness impacts from climate change and energy policies, particularly for those industries that use the most energy. This is why BIS and DECC are working together on the Energy Intensive Industry Strategy which aims to maximise greenhouse gas reductions in these sectors while ensuring their future competitiveness. The strategy will include analysis of the estimated energy price and bill impacts for illustrative energy intensive users. Findings of this analysis will be published in spring.

Electricity Generation: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on electricity market reform. [44773]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and DECC Ministers have regular meetings with Ministers in the devolved Administration of Northern Ireland on a variety of topics.

The Electricity Market Reform team within DECC has had a number of contacts with Northern Ireland officials (from DETI-NI and the Northern Ireland utilities regulator) and has presented and fielded questions at a stakeholder event arranged by DETI on 24 February 2011 in Belfast.

Energy: Housing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum rate of interest that will be set on Green Deal finance loans. [44878]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* It is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the likely commercial interest rate which will be offered to Green Deal customers at this stage. We are working with the finance industry to ensure that the design of the scheme is robust enough to secure the most efficient types of financing, which in turn, will drive down the cost. The Green Deal is a market mechanism and therefore it is not appropriate for government to dictate the interest rate. We may however, set out permissible financial terms in secondary legislation to ensure consumer protection, and will be considering whether these should place controls on the structure of interest rates which can be applied to Green Deal plans.

In addition, we are working to ensure a competitive Green Deal market—this should put downward pressure on prices and leave little room for profiteering.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the merits of *(a)* producing a timetable introducing minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector above F or G levels from 2016 and *(b)* the introduction of a more stringent enforcement regime with higher financial penalties. [44627]

Gregory Barker: The powers we are proposing in the Energy Bill will require domestic landlords to honour reasonable requests from their tenants for energy efficiency improvements, and will require local authorities to insist that landlords improve the worst performing homes. Our intention is that this local authority enforcement would be targeted at F and G properties from 2015, if we do not see voluntarily improvement under the Green Deal. We are not currently pursuing a minimum energy efficiency standard in the private rented sector.

Under these plans, non-compliant landlords could be fined up to £5,000. This is in line with the current fine local authorities can place on landlords who rent out hazardous sub-standard property (under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System).

Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on feed-in tariff payments to date; and how much it expects to spend in the first year of the scheme's operation. [43347]

Gregory Barker: This information is not currently available in the form requested. However, Ofgem has published data from the quarterly levelisation process which show a total of £2,686,712.55 paid for all technologies up to 30 September 2010. Levelisation data can be viewed at:

www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Levelisation/Pages/Levelisation.aspx

Levelisation data for 1 October to 31 December 2010 will be made available on Ofgem's website soon.

Details of the expected costs of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme were published under the previous Administration in February 2010. However, details on level of projections of all eligible technologies under the scheme were sent to all electricity suppliers at the start of the scheme. This information was also provided in response to specific requests and used in meetings with stakeholders.

A copy of the projections can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible. [43541]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to improving transparency and the Coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for the most senior civil servants and to publish organograms for the entire organisation.

As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more. Publication of name, job title and base salary details was then extended to some lower levels of the senior civil service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October.

Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (Pay Bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of that team were published. Organograms will next be updated by the end of May to show structures as at 31 March 2011.

Good progress is being made across the civil service and beyond in improving transparency of how Government works and uses its resources. We are now in a period of consolidating and embedding transparency processes into business as usual. We are always looking to go further and we will continue over the coming months to review, and where necessary improve, the quality and extent of data being released.

Social Enterprises: Co-operatives

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of goods and services supplied directly to his Department were sourced from *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* mutuals and *(c)* co-operatives in the latest period for which figures are available. [45492]

Gregory Barker: This information cannot be identified from the Department's payment records.

Solar Photovoltaic Sector

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the size of the solar photovoltaic market in *(a)* the Brighton and Hove area, *(b)* East and West Sussex and *(c)* the UK; what estimate he has made of the proportion of the global market the UK market represents; and if he will make a statement. [43508]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not have estimates for the size of the solar PV market for the areas requested. Under the low carbon buildings programme, 1,562 grants were provided in south-east England for solar PV technology, of which, 283 were in East and West Sussex. Of these, 23 were in Brighton.

While the solar PV market in the UK is growing it is remains relatively small in comparison to the global size of the market.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect of his Department's review of feed-in tariffs on plans for the installation of solar panels on publicly-owned buildings; and whether he has received representations on the matter from the Leader of Brighton and Hove city council. [43509]

Gregory Barker: The full range of impacts of changes that are proposed from the review of feed-in tariffs (FITs) will be subject to an impact assessment. I am not aware of any representations received by the Secretary of State from the Leader of Brighton and Hove council.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the level of each tariff for solar photovoltaics is to be considered under the fast-track review announced on 7 February 2011. [43727]

Gregory Barker: On 7 February 2011, the Secretary of State announced the comprehensive review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. That review will include fast-track consideration of solar photovoltaics (PV) installations over 50kW.

The fast-track consultation will be launched later this month.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many representations his Department has received on the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs for large scale solar photovoltaics. [43728]

Gregory Barker: The Department has received several representations on the fast track review of feed-in tariffs for large scale solar photovoltaics. Detailed information on these representations will be provided as part of the consultation on this issue.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution of small-scale photovoltaic projects to community projects; if he will exclude such projects from the scope of his review of feed-in tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [43793]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is undertaking analysis of all aspects of feed-in tariffs as part of the first comprehensive review of the scheme which commenced on 7 February. Detailed proposals on the fast-track element of the review are being worked up and we intend to publish them for consultation later this month.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development. [42604]

Gregory Barker: The Compact between this coalition Government and civil society organisations was agreed and launched on 16 December 2010. It was accompanied by guidance on accountability and transparency for the first time, ensuring that Government Departments as well as civil society organisations are clear about the level of commitment and the implications for not following the Compact. The Cabinet Office considers policy that is relevant to civil society organisations from a Compact perspective, ensuring that it is adhered to, and where it is not possible for whatever reason, that this is explained to the sector in an open and transparent manner.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42645]

Gregory Barker: The big society is more than a collection of policies—it is an approach which is at the heart of the Government's reforms across all policy areas with the aim of localising power and opening up public services and encouraging social action. Each department has a range of specific programmes which will contribute to growing the big society. These policies are coordinated across Government through meetings at official and ministerial level, including the Informal Ministerial Group on the Big Society and Localism, which shares ideas and supports progress on cross cutting-issues relating to the big society.

DECC has several programmes aimed at achieving the big society goals of catalysing social action, decentralising power and opening up public services. These include:

the Low Carbon Communities Challenge—a two year action-research programme for testing localised, community-led models for delivering carbon savings, reducing energy consumption, and fostering social cohesion;

the community energy online web portal (launched late 2010)—the Portal provides helpful tools and information to enable communities and others to develop local community based energy projects;

enabling local authorities to sell electricity—a change in legislation (effective from 18 August 2010) was made to allow local authorities to sell electricity they generate themselves from renewable sources; and

the Green Deal—from late 2012 this will enable private companies, local authorities and civil society organisations to offer energy efficiency improvements to households, communities and businesses at no upfront cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how parents of a disabled child will be able to acquire the aids and adaptations necessary for the well-being of that child under his proposed reforms to disability living allowance. [43282]

Maria Miller: Parents of disabled children may receive additional support for their child, including aids and adaptations, from a variety of sources including the health, social care and education systems. If the child receives disability living allowance, the parent may choose to use the benefit to purchase additional items. DLA will be replaced by personal independence payment from 2013, but it will remain a non-means-tested, non-taxable cash benefit which can be spent according to the priorities of the individual.

When personal independence payment is introduced from 2013 the reforms will initially apply to the working-age caseload only. We want to use the experience of reassessing the working-age caseload to inform any future decisions on arrangements for children.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44228]

Chris Grayling: DWP has not had any expenditure with Electoral Reform Services from 2005 to date.

Employment Schemes

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what circumstances cited for failing to take part in the training or education mandated by the work programme will be considered reasonable. [44672]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers will be able to require customers to participate in work-related activity, including training or education, in circumstances where the customer's benefit conditionality rules allow this. If a customer fails to participate in work-related activity, they will be given an opportunity to demonstrate good cause. Jobcentre Plus decision makers will come to a view on whether or not a customer has good cause on a case-by-case basis, taking a customer's individual circumstances into account.

We are currently developing guidance on the types of circumstances which may be considered when judging whether or not a customer has good cause. This guidance will be published prior to the implementation of the work programme.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether individuals who participate in mandatory training or education as part of the work programme or skills conditionality programme will have a maximum course length; [44673]

(2) whether claimants of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance undertaking mandatory training as part of the work programme or skills conditionality programme will continue to receive their benefit during the course; whether such people will be required to attend job interviews which are timetabled during course commitments; and whether their benefit entitlements will be dependent on the length of their course. [44674]

Chris Grayling: Skills conditionality will apply to both jobseeker's allowance claimants and benefit recipients in the work-related activity group of employment and support allowance. People referred to training on a mandatory basis will be subject to the same benefit rules as those engaging in training on a voluntary basis. Skills conditionality is currently being piloted in 11 Jobcentre Plus districts and will apply nationally from August 2011. Mandatory referrals to training may then take place prior to a claimant's entry to the work programme as well as once they are on the work programme.

The course length will not be prescribed but will depend upon the identified job goals and skills need of the claimant. Before a mandatory referral to training can be made, the college or training provider must have confirmed that they are able and willing to accept the claimant onto an appropriate course. Benefit entitlements will not be dependent on the length of the training course. Units of accredited training will be offered as well as longer courses depending on the skills needs of the individual and those of the local labour market. Claimants will be subject to sanctions for failure to participate but where they can demonstrate good cause they will not be sanctioned.

Recipients of jobseeker's allowance who take part in part-time training will continue to receive jobseeker's allowance provided they continue to meet the full labour-market requirements and are willing to give up the course if a job opportunity is offered. Courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency, Welsh Assembly Government and Scottish Government are considered to be full-time training where they involve 16 hours or more a week. There is no definition about what constitutes a full- or part-time course where training is funded from other sources—it is for the course provider to determine. Jobseekers who take part in full-time training are moved onto a training allowance and are not subject to jobseeker's allowance conditionality for the duration of their time on the training.

Recipients of employment and support allowance referred to training by Jobcentre Plus will continue to receive their usual benefit entitlement. In setting the work-related activity for a member of the employment and support allowance work-related activity group, Jobcentre Plus advisers will ensure that the requirements they place on a person are apt and reasonable in their circumstances. Work-related activity may include attending training to address a skills need if this will make it more likely that a customer will obtain or remain in work.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an individual appealing against a work capability assessment decision on their ability to work may continue claiming incapacity benefit up to the point at which the appeal is determined. [44652]

Chris Grayling: If an incapacity benefit recipient who is found fit for work following a work capability assessment then appeals against the decision, they will receive the assessment phase rate of employment and support allowance during the appeals process. They will no longer receive incapacity benefit.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people not in work who are ineligible for jobseeker's allowance owing to insufficient national insurance contributions. [44644]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The latest information available is in the following table.

There are two types of jobseeker's allowance. Contribution-based jobseeker's allowance is payable for up to 183 days as long as sufficient national insurance contributions have been paid at the relevant time. Income-based jobseeker's allowance is payable irrespective of the claimant's contribution record but according to the claimant's household income, and can be paid in addition to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance. For both types of the benefit, the claimant must also satisfy statutory conditions of entitlement, such as being available for and actively seeking work.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants: Type of jobseeker's allowance —May 2010

Type of jobseeker's allowance	*Total*
All	1,354,600
Contribution-based benefit only	205,300
Income-based and contribution-based benefit	21,200
Income-based benefit only	1,010,900
No benefit in payment (credits only)	117,300

Notes:
1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the100% data sources. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 therefore totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. These data were extracted from the Department's tabulation tool at:
http://83.244.183.180/5pc/tabtool.html
then rated up.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 5% samples

Jobseeker's Allowance: Mortgages

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Stockton North constituency and *(b)* the UK who (i) were affected by his Department's changes to entitlement to mortgage interest payments and (ii) will be affected over 12 months following the change. [43518]

Chris Grayling: The change in the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest applies to all customers who receive that help as part of their benefit.

In May 2010, the latest period for which figures are available, the number of jobseeker's allowance customers in *(a)* the Stockton North constituency, and *(b)* Great Britain, who were also in receipt of support for mortgage interest, is given in the table.

No estimate has been made of the number of jobseeker's allowance customers who will be affected over 12 months following the change to the standard interest rate at which support for mortgage interest is paid.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in receipt of mortgage interest in the Stockton North parliamentary constituency and in Great Britain—May 2010

	Jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving mortgage interest
Stockton North	*100
Great Britain	34,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) totals.
3. Parliamentary constituency of claimants are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. Figures are for Great Britain. Northern Ireland statistics are prepared by DSDNI and can be obtained from:
www.dsdni.gov.uk
5. Numbers marked "*" are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency received support for mortgage interest payments in each of the last five years. [44265]

Steve Webb: As requested, the following table presents the total number of claimants, in receipt of either pension credit (PC), income support (IS) or jobseeker's allowance (JSA), receiving support for mortgage interest in Motherwell and Wishaw parliamentary constituency over the last five years.

Total number of claimants of PC, IS, JSA receiving mortgage interest in Motherwell and Wishaw parliamentary constituency

As at May each year	*Number*
2005	[1]500
2006	600
2007	[1]500
2008	[1]500
2009	[1]500
2010	[1]500

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation.
Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are based on 5% sample data. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Caseload figures have been uprated by using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data.
4. Figures provided are a point in time estimate at May in each year.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples.

Poverty: EU Action

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Commission Communication on The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion, COM(2010) 758 final; what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of implementing each measure recommended in the Communication; and whether the implementation of any measure recommended in the Communication would involve a transfer of powers from the UK to the EU. [44416]

Chris Grayling: The UK Government can agree to the principles that underpin the Platform or the European Commission's aspiration to lift 20 million people out of relative poverty by 2020. These goals are in line with the Government's commitment to freedom, fairness and responsibility. However, our support is contingent on there being no additional resource implications for the UK and upon full respect for the principles of UK competence as provided for in the EU Treaties.

The Communication represents a high level summary of the Commission's intentions. It is not possible at this stage to determine whether there would be any cost implication arising from the proposals or whether they represent an erosion of member states' powers. As detailed proposals emerge over coming months we will subject them to rigorous scrutiny to ensure that there are no adverse consequences for the UK.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be subject to the total cap on benefit entitlement which are currently in social housing. [40578]

Steve Webb: If the benefit cap is applied in full, it is estimated that around 70% of those affected by the household cap on total benefit income will be living in social housing.

The estimated number of households affected by the benefit cap is based on survey data using the Department for Work and Pension's Policy Simulation Model. Small sample sizes for those estimated to be affected mean that further estimating the characteristics of this group are uncertain and should be treated with caution.

We are currently looking at how we could transitionally protect those particularly adversely affected.

Note:

Percentages have been rounded to the nearest 10%

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the effects on the Exchequer of bringing forward the proposed increase in the state pension age to 67 years old to *(a)* 2035 and *(b)* 2034; [44866]

(2) if he will estimate the effects on the Exchequer of bringing forward the proposed increase in the state pension age to 68 years old to *(a)* 2045 and *(b)* 2046. [44867]

Steve Webb: Under existing legislation, the state pension age will increase gradually to 67 between April 2034 and March 2036, and gradually to 68 between April 2044 and March 2046.

We have interpreted the proposed changes to the increase in the state pension age to 67 as:

(a) bringing the change forward by one year so that the state pension age rises gradually to 67 between April 2033 and March 2035. This would result in reduced spending of £6.9 billion, in 2010-11 prices, over the three years from 2033-34 to 2035-36.

(b) bringing the change forward by two years so that the state pension age rises gradually to 67 between April 2032 and March 2034. This would result in reduced spending of £13.7 billion, in 2010-11 prices, over the four years from 2032-33 to 2035-36.

and the proposed changes to the increase in the state pension age to 68 as:

(a) bringing the change forward by one year so that the state pension age rises gradually to 68 between April 2043 and March 2045. This would result in reduced spending of £9.1 billion, in 2010-11 prices, over the three years from 2043-44 to 2045-46.

(b) bringing the change forward by two years, so that the state pension age rises gradually to 68 between April 2042 and March 2044. This would result in reduced spending of £18.1 billion, in 2010-11 prices, over the four years from 2042-43 to 2045-46.

Unemployed People: Travel

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with Transport for London on the promotion of discounted public transport fares for people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [44670]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about what discussions our Department has had with Transport for London (TfL) on the promotion of discounted public transport fares for people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

TfL provides discounted fares for customers claiming JSA, by providing them with a card giving them a 50% discount on buses and trams.

It is available across London and promoted through Jobcentre Plus offices at Fortnightly Job Reviews, Adviser interviews and other appropriate opportunities. Programme Providers are also aware of and promote take up of the scheme.

To be eligible for the card, customers must have been receiving JSA for a minimum of 13 weeks. At this point Jobcentre Plus issues application forms which customers can take to their local post office to receive the discount card.

This has been a very successful scheme since its introduction in April 2009. By March this year over 173,000 cards had been issued to JSA customers.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the availability of discounts for bus, train or tram fares provided to recipients of jobseeker's allowance for the purposes of encouraging them to apply for jobs outside their immediate locality. [44671]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the availability of discounts for bus, train or tram fares provided to recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance for the purposes of encouraging them to apply for jobs outside their immediate locality. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a partnership agreement with the Association of Train Operating Companies, which offers a 50% discount on rail travel in England and Wales to Jobcentre Plus customers who are seeking work or have entered the various New Deal Programmes for lone parents and disadvantaged groups. This agreement has been in place for the last 13 years and has helped a wide range of customers with travel costs. A similar scheme is also in place in Scotland via Scot Rail.

More locally, other schemes are available such as discounted fares through Oyster Card in London and Centro Partnership in the West Midlands, both of which allow multi use of the card on rail and bus travel. In terms of travel by bus, there is no national agreement, but advisers will signpost people to schemes available locally.

For those wishing to consider employment outside their immediate locality, we currently have the Travel to Interview Scheme, which helps with the cost of attending interviews considered to be outside the local travel to work area. The scheme does not have a large annual budget, so careful management is required to ensure it helps as many customers as possible each year. In doing so, advisers make awards, taking into account individual circumstances and factors which include making sure the applicant has an established claim to a qualifying benefit, the availability of jobs locally, the distance involved in attending the interview in question and what is considered to be the local travel to work area. Customers must apply for help before attending an interview to check entitlement.

In delivering a more personalised service from April this year, we are providing District Managers with a flexible support fund, which will subsume a number of current discretionary funds, including the Travel to Interview Scheme. This new fund will be used directly and in partnership with other local organisations to tailor services to individual and local need. Where appropriate, this will include support for people who are looking to travel further afield to look for and take-up work.

Unemployment

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in England aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 19, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 21, *(e)* 22, *(f)* 23 and *(g)* 24 were (i) unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation definition and (ii) unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation definition and not in full-time education in the latest period for which figures are available. [43904]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in England aged (a) 18, (b) 19, (c) 20, (d) 21, (e) 22, (f) 23 and (g) 24 were (i) unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation definition and (ii) unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation definition and not in full-time education. 43904

The table provided shows the information requested.

Number of unemployed people aged 18 to 24, by educational status. Three months ending December, 2010. England, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

Age	*Total unemployed*	*Unemployed and not in full-time education*
18	***90	***54
19	***96	***74
20	***103	***85
21	***86	***76
22	***87	***83
23	***74	***70
24	***64	***61

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of unemployment on income inequality. [44096]

Chris Grayling: My Department has not made an assessment of the effects of unemployment on income inequality.

PRIME MINISTER

Big Society Initiative

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* any staff of his Office are participating in volunteering activity as part of the Government's big society initiative; [44188]

(2) what steps his Office has taken to support the Government's big society initiative. [44200]

The Prime Minister: My Office is undertaking volunteering activity with two social action partners during 2011.

The first is with "Blue Sky Development and Regeneration", a non-profit organisation employing ex-offenders in maintenance and recycling businesses to help reduce reoffending rates. The second is with Street League, a charity that delivers sports and educational programmes to tackle issues including homelessness, substance addiction, crime and unemployment.

For further details I refer the hon. Member to the press notice on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/12/number-10-staff-select-two-charities-to-support-in-2011-58400

In addition, many members of my Office take part in volunteering activities with a wide range of charities and organisations.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England allocated per head of population in *(a)* Wolverhampton North East constituency, *(b)* Wolverhampton South East constituency, *(c)* Wolverhampton South West constituency, *(d)* Dudley North constituency, *(e)* Dudley South constituency, *(f)* Stourbridge constituency and *(g)* Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [44653]

Mr Vaizey: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has not yet published current population and constituency data, therefore, Arts Council England has advised that the figures in the table are approximates based on the most recent available alternative data from the ONS, which are from mid-2007.

Sum of amount awarded 2009-10

£

Constituency	*Grants for the Arts*	*Regularly funded organisations*	*Totals*	*Population*[1]	*Funding per head*
Dudley North	15,912	0	15,192	79,587	0.20
Dudley South	7,000	51,350	58,350	78,032	0.75
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	49,695	0	49,695	83,563	0.59
Stourbridge	82,008	0	82,008	87,441	0.94
Wolverhampton North East	4,669	0	4,669	83,955	0.06
Wolverhampton South East	5,000	57,326	62,326	84,568	0.74
Wolverhampton South West	177,710	290,257	467,967	81,623	5.73

[1] Figures from 2007

Arts: Brighton and Hove

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the contribution to UK gross domestic product by the arts and creative industries *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the Brighton and Hove area; and if he will make a statement. [44640]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold separate measures of the arts and creative industries' contribution to the economy. The contribution of music, performing and visual arts to the economy is measured as part of the DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates. We estimate that the contribution of the creative industries to the economy as a whole was 5.6% of gross value added (GVA) in 2008. GVA is the most accurate measure of an industry's contribution to the economy and so this measure is used instead of GDP.

The Department does not measure or hold data on the contribution of creative industries to the economy at a regional level.

BBC

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the potential effects of BBC online local news content on private sector providers of such news services. [44696]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has regular discussions with the BBC Trust on the measures agreed in last year's licence fee settlement including support for local TV.

At the time of the licence fee settlement, the BBC committed to the principle that the BBC should not launch services which are more local than the BBC's current offerings on radio, the web and television.

British Sky Broadcasting: News International

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on his decision on the News Corp bid for BSkyB; and if he will make a statement. [45636]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I refer the hon. Member to the Statement I made to the House on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 518-19, setting out that I propose to accept undertakings from News Corporation on their proposed merger with BSkyB. I have launched a consultation as to whether the undertakings in lieu offered by News Corporation are sufficient to remedy, mitigate or prevent the public interest concerns in relation to media plurality raised by this merger. I will consider all representations before reaching a final decision on the undertakings in lieu.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will ensure his departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43543]

John Penrose: The level of salary disclosure in our organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold the Department to account for its use of public funds. There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Gambling

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the outcomes of the next Gambling Prevalence Survey to be published. [43057]

John Penrose: We are currently developing plans on the precise form, funding and timing of the next Gambling Prevalence Survey, working closely with the Gambling Commission.

Languages: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on meeting his Department's responsibilities regarding Scottish Gaelic for *(a)* language maintenance and development under the European Charter for Minority or Indigenous Languages and *(b)* broadcasting services in UK languages. [44709]

Mr Vaizey: My Department's interests in the UK Government's responsibilities under the Charter relating to Gaelic were taken forward through the arrangements made for the establishment of BBC Alba.

Ofcom: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons Ofcom owes £29.3 million to central Government bodies; what plans there are to recover these funds; and for what reasons such liabilities arose. [43739]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* Ofcom's 2009-10 Annual Report lists £29.238 million grant in aid paid by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in respect of the following Ofcom activities for the months of April, May, June and July 2010:

	£ million
Spectrum Management	22.5
Spectrum Awards	1.8
Spectrum Clearance	4.1
Ex-Post Competition	0.7
Other - Online Copyright Infringement, Local Media, Digital Participation and Postal Integration	0.1

This is grant in aid paid in line with agreed procedures with BIS and is appropriately classified within Ofcom's statutory accounts under International Financial Reporting Standards conventions.

In addition, BIS has provided a loan of £2,036,000 to Ofcom to enable it to undertake work to meet its obligations under the Digital Economy Act 2010. Those costs will fall to industry, but will not be recouped until the code of practice comes into force, at which time Ofcom will repay the loan to BIS.

Olympic Games 2012: Housing

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what proportion of the affordable homes to be provided through the transformation of the Olympic Athletes' Village will be *(a)* accessible homes and *(b)* affordable accessible homes; [44786]

(2) whether developers undertaking work for the London 2012 Olympics will be obliged to provide a certain proportion of accessible housing in new developments in the area; [44787]

(3) how many of the 1,379 affordable homes to be provided through the Olympic Athletes' Village will be accessible; [44791]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that no accommodation unit in the Olympic Athletes' Village which has been modified for paralympians will be demolished or have its modifications removed following the London 2012 Olympics; [44792]

(5) what proportion of short-term housing in the Olympic Athletes' Village will be designated as accessible housing as part of the Olympic Legacy strategy. [44793]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic and Paralympic Village has been designed to be part of a successful social, environmental and economically sustainable community. All the 2,818 housing units have been built to the Lifetime Homes Standard for accessible and adaptable homes. The planning consent requires that 8% of these properties be fully wheelchair accessible and that 10% of the social for rent housing and 8% of the intermediate housing be fully wheelchair accessible.

All the accommodation built for Olympians and Paralympians will be retrofitted to provide homes in legacy in compliance with this planning consent.

1,379 affordable housing units in the Village have been sold to Triathlon Homes, an approved provider of affordable homes. The provision of short-term lets to tenants will be a matter for Triathlon.

Sports: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support grassroots sport in the London borough of Bexley. [45407]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England is the arm's length body with responsibility for community sport. Their aim is to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport.

National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs) are responsible for the strategy, delivering through their networks of community clubs, coaches and volunteers, across all parts of the country. Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 governing bodies over the next four years and has agreed 'grow' and 'sustain' targets with each one. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan to achieve these targets.

Additionally, the £135 million Mass Participation Olympic Legacy—Places People Play—was launched in November 2010 and will benefit residents of Bexley and the country more widely. This programme will be funded by lottery money and has been developed in partnership with Sport England, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG), the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association (BPA).

In addition to the current funding being invested through NGBs, Sport England has invested a total of £3,114,049 into Bexley since 2006. This includes a recent investment of £1.24 million via the Sustainable Facilities Fund to the Europa Gymnastics Centre, the site which will be the new home of the Europa Gymnastics Club, which will also act as an Olympic and Paralympic training venue for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45073]

Damian Green: The Home Department has invested significantly in process improvement through the creation of a professional Shared Service Centre and Procurement Centre of Excellence complemented by upgraded Procure to Pay systems.

The Department puts a firm focus on paying its suppliers on time when it is in receipt of a compliant invoice. The Home Department's performance information for paying suppliers within 10 days of receipt of a compliant invoice in January and February 2011 is:

Home Department—invoices paid within 10 days

	January 2011	*February 2011*
Number of compliant invoices paid	5,121	5,522
Number of compliant invoices paid within terms	4,154	4,751
Percentage of compliant invoices paid within terms	81	86

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects an announcement to be made on redundancies in the Sheffield offices of *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* her Department. [45176]

Damian Green: There are currently no plans to announce redundancies in the Sheffield offices of UK Border Agency and the Home Department this year. In line with the budget settlement of the spending review 2011-15, the UK Border Agency Offices and Home Department in Sheffield will have to carry out restructuring exercises.

Departments will explore all possible and reasonable alternatives such as redeployment and voluntary exit schemes to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of likely redundancies in the UK Border Agency in the next four years. [45177]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is committed to making no compulsory redundancies unless as a last resort. Announced headcount reductions of 5,200 posts over the next four years will be achieved wherever possible through voluntary early release schemes, ceasing recruiting, and reducing the numbers of contractors and agency staff.

Dr Michael Savage

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the exclusion from the UK of Dr Michael Savage. [44157]

Damian Green: Michael Savage was excluded from the UK for making statements that brought him within scope of the published unacceptable behaviour policy. He expressed views that seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts and foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence. In the absence of clear, convincing and public evidence that Mr Savage has repudiated his previous statements, his exclusion remains in place.

Foreign Workers

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had on the grant of intracompany transfer visas or other visas to *(a)* Indian and *(b)* other non-EU workers; what proposals she has received from the (i) EU and (ii) Indian Government concerning such visas; what representations she has received on this subject; what proposals have been made for the EU to grant the right of entry to EU member states for such workers from outside the EU and what proposals have otherwise been made in respect of the EU on this subject; what discussions she has held with other Ministers regarding such matters; and if she will make a statement. [44594]

Damian Green: The Indian Government responded to last year's public consultation on the changes we are making to economic migration routes, including Intra-Company Transfers (ICTs). The European Commission brought forward a proposal for a directive on the admission of third country ICTs, which the UK has not opted into. The EU is also holding discussions with India on a free trade agreement which, it is proposed, will contain provisions on migrant workers.

The Home Secretary has frequent discussions with other Ministers concerning migration policy, among other matters.

Human Trafficking

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce the Government's policy on human trafficking. [45122]

Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. We are committed to tackling organised crime groups which profit from this human misery and to protecting victims. We are due to publish our new strategy on human trafficking in the spring.

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which Department of the UK Border Agency is responsible for ensuring that immigration detainees scheduled for removal are able to retrieve personal possessions from their homes before removal; [44990]

(2) what changes there have been to *(a)* policy and *(b)* practice on responsibility within her Department and the UK Border Agency for ensuring that immigration detainees scheduled for removal are sent personal possessions before removal. [45186]

Damian Green: Where UK Border Agency enforcement officers (based in Local Immigration Teams around the country) attend an individual's home in order to detain them with a view to removal, the opportunity to pack a reasonable amount of luggage (determined by baggage flight allowances) is given prior to departure for the Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). Full details are set out in Chapter [illegible]1.10.8 of the UK Border Agency's Enforcement Instructions and Guidance, available to view at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

However, once an individual is in detention, it is their responsibility to make arrangements for the retrieval of any further possessions from their home, via friends or family for instance. Such possessions may be brought to the IRC in question for inclusion in the individual's luggage for their removal flight.

Should this lead to an excess of baggage for the flight, however, separate arrangements for their transport must be made by the individual. Detainees are allowed to retain their mobile phones or use phone cards to facilitate this, and welfare officers are on site to assist detainees with any concerns surrounding their departure, such as luggage.

There has been no recent change to this policy or practice.

Local Child Curfew Schemes: Suffolk

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many child curfew orders were issued in Suffolk in each year since 1997; and how many such orders were breached in each such year. [45149]

James Brokenshire: Local child curfew schemes were introduced by section 14 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and amended in sections 48 and 49 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. They were repealed by the Police and Crime Act 2009.

Information on the number of local child curfew schemes was not collected centrally.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on sentences given for *(a)* possession of a knife and *(b)* possession of a handgun. [45120]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on a range of sentencing issues.

Prevent Scheme

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to Milton Keynes local authority under the Prevent scheme in each of the last three years. [44756]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Milton Keynes council received the following amounts from the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of their Area Based Grant under the Prevent programme.

	£
2008-09	105,000
2009-10	143,292
2010-11	138,193

Victims of Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the chance of an individual becoming a victim of crime *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in North Wales in each of the last 30 years. [44558]

James Brokenshire: Information on adults' and households', resident in England and Wales, risk of being a victim of crimes covered by the British Crime Survey (BCS) is available for many of the last 30 years. However, the BCS does not cover all types of crime and all population groups, with for example victimisation of children excluded.

Data for England and Wales and North Wales between 1981 and 2009-10 are provided in the table. The BCS sample was expanded in 2001-02 to allow the provision of some key estimates at police force area level but prior to this it is not possible to provide estimates for North Wales.

Trends in percentage of adults/households who were victims once or more (prevalence risk)

	Personal crime		Household crime	
	North Wales	England and Wales	North Wales	England and Wales
1981	—	7	—	22
1983	—	7	—	24
1987	—	7	—	27
1991	—	7	—	29
1993	—	9	—	33
1995	—	10	—	33
1997	—	10	—	28
1999	—	9	—	25
2001-02	5	7	[1]17	22
2002-03	[1]5	8	[1]13	21
2003-04	[1]4	7	[1]14	20
2004-05	[1]4	7	16	18
2005-06	[1]4	6	[1]12	18
2006-07	6	7	17	19
2007-08	[1]3	6	[1]11	17
2008-09	[1]4	6	[1]9	18
2009-10	[1]3	6	[1]11	16

[1] Denotes statistical significance (at 95% level) in comparison with England and Wales.

Notes:

1. All risks are rounded to nearest whole number.
2. Details of Personal and Household crime as measured by the BCS are given in section 2.6 'BCS measures of crime' in 'User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics' at: http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/crimestats-userguide.pdf
3. Differences in estimates between years may not be statistically significant. Significant differences between years covering this period can be found in table 2.03 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2009/10' at: http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210.pdf

Source:
British Crime Survey

Visas: Students

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the effect on UK universities of the decision to *(a)* withdraw two-year post-study working visas and *(b)* reduce entitlements to part-time work on study visas. [44429]

Damian Green: A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The consultation sought the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation and an impact assessment will be published in due course.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Education

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to work with *(a)* the Afghan Ministry of Education and *(b)* donors to (i) reduce barriers to girls' education, (ii) increase access to secondary and higher education for girls, (iii) increase the number of trained male and female teachers in rural areas and (iv) increase the number of adequately equipped schools in rural areas in Afghanistan. [44657]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The coalition Government are putting girls and women at the heart of our international development programme. The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with other donors to support the Government of Afghanistan with the implementation of its second National Education Strategic Plan, which aims to raise enrolment from 7 million to 9 million in the next three years. Key components of the plan include increasing the number of female teachers (by expanding their intake at teacher training centres); ensuring 200 secondary schools for girls are built in rural areas; and ensuring 2,540 local communities have increasing responsibility for managing safety arrangements at schools, so that both girls and boys can attend and enjoy school safely.

Along with other major donors, DFID is also supporting Afghanistan's application for assistance via the Education for All Fast Track Initiative.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of barriers to girls' education in Afghanistan. [44658]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: A recent Education Sector Analysis, conducted in preparation for Afghanistan's application for the global Education for All initiative, highlighted many barriers to girls' education, including lack of female teachers, limited number of girls' schools, safety and security issues and distance of travel. The Department for International Development (DFID), along with other donors, is working with the Government of Afghanistan to help address these challenges. For example, the support we have provided through the Government's Education Quality Improvement Programme has enabled communities and schools to come together to enhance safeguards for girls travelling to and being in school.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45093]

Mr O'Brien: The Department of International Development (DFID) paid 63.92% of payments within 10 days in January and 92.98% in February, January figures were significantly lower than average due to a high volume of invoices received and adverse weather conditions that affected staff in our East Kilbride office in December 2010, as well as an IT system upgrade in January.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45092]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not disposed of any assets under a sale and leaseback arrangement over the last 12 months.

Developing Countries: Energy

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he last discussed the World Bank energy strategy review with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. [44556]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I meet the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on a regular basis and a variety of relevant matters are discussed. Although we have not met specifically to discuss the World Bank Energy Strategy Review, officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department for Energy and Climate Change regularly meet and discuss the Review as it progresses. Both I and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change are in close touch with officials on this process. DFID officials have also been in regular contact with the World Bank to feed in UK views on previous drafts of the review.

DFID has emphasised the need for the World Bank to take full account of all the relevant issues concerning use of renewable energy versus fossil fuels in developing countries, and to pay better consideration to the vulnerability of natural resources and energy assets in developing countries. The UK has also emphasised the importance of strengthening the World Bank's role in supporting developing country planning capacity for low carbon, climate resilient growth.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid he plans to allocate to India in cash terms in each of the next five years. [44663]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Following my announcement on 1 March 2011 of the conclusion of the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews, I published indicative budgets for the Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme for the four financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15. The indicative budget for India is frozen at £280 million for each of those four years.

The UK's aid programme in India will focus much more tightly on India's poorest states and poorest people. We will help these states to unlock more funds from the private sector and reinforce the impact of the Indian Government's own programmes. Our goal will be to help the poorest women and girls get quality schooling, health care, nutrition and jobs as the key to breaking the cycle of poverty for the next generation.

International Assistance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the membership is of his Department's Multilateral Aid Review. [44843]

Mr O'Brien: The Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) was conducted by staff from the Department for International Development (DFID), reporting directly to the Secretary of State for International Development. DFID staff sought comments and evidence from a range of stakeholders, including the multilateral organisations themselves, civil society organisations such as non-government organisations and trade unions, other Government Departments and developing country partners. In addition, two leading academics in the field of development studies acted as joint external reviewers for the Review.

International Labour Organisation: Finance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he consulted the TUC prior to taking the decision to reduce his Department's level of support for the International Labour Organisation. [44664]

Mr O'Brien: The Trades Union Congress (TUC) was consulted throughout the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) process. In the early stages of this process, the TUC submitted an evidence paper detailing its views on the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The Secretary of State for International Development discussed the ILO with Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the TUC, on 15 December 2010. Department for International Development (DFID) officials met the TUC in January 2011 to discuss the MAR's findings relating to the ILO and I discussed the review of the ILO with representatives of the TUC in February 2011.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Closures

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small and medium-sized businesses in Halifax have closed since May 2010. [44550]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many small and medium-sized businesses in Halifax have closed since May 2010. [44550]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise deaths for small and medium-sized businesses in the constituency of Halifax for 2009. Information relating to 2010 will be available following release of the latest Business Demography publication in November 2011.

Enterprise deaths in Halifax constituency

	Employment size band		
	0-49	50-249	Total
2009	390	0	390

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: UK Elections

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to ensure that votes cast by service personnel in Afghanistan for elections to be held on 5 May 2011 reach the UK securely. [45431]

Mr Robathan: For the referendum and elections on 5 May 2011, the Ministry of Defence is working with the Cabinet Office and the Electoral Commission to utilise existing supply flights to transport postal ballot packs (subject to operational priorities). However, voting by proxy remains the most reliable means for service personnel stationed overseas to cast their votes.

Air Force: Pay

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to continue to pay flying-related financial retention incentives. [41652]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Financial incentive schemes, including financial retention incentives, are kept under constant review based on need. This is particularly important in a period when force structures are changing. However, no decisions have yet been taken. Information on any changes to existing schemes will be promulgated as soon as they are known.

Arab States: Arms Trade

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions representatives of the government of *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Bahrain, *(c)* Libya and *(d)* Tunisia have attended sales and marketing events organised by his Department in the last three years; and what the status was of their attendance. [43491]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Major UK defence and security exhibitions are organised commercially. The role of UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) is to host official overseas Government defence and security delegations at these events. Invitations are issued with approval of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In the last three years an official delegation has attended from Bahrain at Farnborough International Air Show 2008 (FIAS '08), Defence Equipment and Systems International 2009, and Home Office Scientific and Development Branch exhibition 2010 (HOSDB), from Egypt at Defence Equipment and Systems International 2009 and HOSDB '10, and from Libya at FIAS '10.

In addition, UKTI DSO has hosted inward visits from representatives of the Governments of Bahrain, Egypt and Libya. In May 2008, a Bahraini Army delegation visited UK to witness a demonstration of artillery fire control equipment. In May 2009 the Bahraini National Guard visited UK for a variety of presentations related to defence of major international conferences. In May 2009 and October 2010, a Bahraini defence delegation attended the multinational Ballistic Toolkit demonstrations of small arms and protective equipment In September 2010, Bahraini defence delegates attended an exhibition of UK military equipment as part of UK/Bahrain defence staff talks. In April 2010 an Egyptian officer attended a Ministry of Defence event to brief London-based Defence attachés on the UK approach to operational training and UKTI DSO Export Support Team demonstrated some optical equipment. In November 2009 a Libyan delegation visited a variety of UK defence companies to discuss border security issues. Some members of the Libyan delegation which attended FIAS '10 also visited RAF establishments.

Representatives of the Government of Tunisia have not attended a defence or security exhibition, or other export related event, as guests of the UK Government over the last three years.

Armed Forces: Pay

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-47WS, on armed forces allowances, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the changes to local overseas allowance on the average amount payable to personnel based overseas; and if he will make a statement. [44722]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* This information is not held as the rate of local overseas allowance can vary significantly depending upon where individuals are posted and which rank band they are placed in. It is expected that in the majority of cases individuals will receive less, but as a result of the reduction of rank-based bands from 13 to three, personnel at lower ranks may find that they benefit as a result of these changes.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of active members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme earn *(a)* between £10,000 and £15,000, *(b)* between £15,000 and £20,000, *(c)* between £20,000 and £25,000, *(d)* between £25,000 and £30,000 and *(e)* £30,000 and more. [40374]

Mr Robathan: The following table provides information on the proportion of active members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme by salary band as at 1 April 2010:

Salary band	*Proportion (%)*
£10,000-£14,999	3.5
£15,000-£19,999	19.6
£20,000-£24,999	14.4
£25,000-£29,999	13.5
£30,000 plus	49.0

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-22W, on armed forces (redundancies), what actions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department plan to take to ensure that no members of the armed forces are informed of their redundancy by email. [42841]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* Ministers have made clear that individuals should be informed that they are being made redundant through the Chain of Command. In exceptional cases this may be by telephone, but for the vast majority it will be face to face. In no circumstances will personnel be informed by email.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency and (B) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43960]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has made no estimates of the total cost of its procurement and outsourcing functions. We have estimated that the cost of the commercial element of the procurement function in 2009-10 was £153 million. The commercial element of the procurement function is a sub-set of the overall cost, which also includes the cost of project management, the supply chain and the costs involved over the entire life-cycle of a project, from initial requirement and concept, through to ultimate final disposal. This estimate is based on an average cost of the number of commercial staff in the main commercial areas, including overheads. The estimate for the Private Finance Unit, which is part of the outsourcing function, was £0.7 million.

Separate information for each agency and non-departmental public body could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the factors determining the withdrawal of MR2 Nimrod were taken into account in his decision to cancel the MRA4 Nimrod. [44515]

Peter Luff: The Nimrod MR2 was withdrawn from service in March 2010. I cannot comment on the rationale for decisions taken by the previous Government, but the decision to cancel the Nimrod MRA4 project was based on a careful consideration of future costs and military priorities.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme: Learning Disability

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has given to local authorities on the provision of blue badges for drivers responsible for adults with learning difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [44898]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not issued any guidance specifically on this matter. Blue Badges can be issued to individuals who receive the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance, are registered blind, receive a war pensioners mobility supplement, or who have a "permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking". People with conditions such as learning difficulties will be eligible for a badge if they meet one or more of these criteria.

Cycling

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to increase cycling as a means of transport in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [43109]

Norman Baker: The Government have committed to funding the Bikeability cycling proficiency training programme for the lifetime of this Parliament—until 2015, thereby giving confidence to the future of the programme. The focus of Government support will be on providing children the opportunity to receive training when at school.

In addition, the Government have allocated £560 million resource and capital funding to support local sustainable travel projects in the form of the local sustainable transport fund. Through this, local transport authorities outside London are eligible to bid for packages of sustainable travel measures which can incorporate cycling initiatives.

Cycling England

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of closing Cycling England. [43108]

Norman Baker: Cycling England will cease to exist after 31 March 2011. All contracts relating to its work, including board appointments, were due to come to an end on that date and therefore there is no cost for early termination. Any contracts for work which is continuing are being renegotiated in line with departmental procedures. The three staff of Cycling England are Department for Transport employees.

Cycling: Parking

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to raise cycle parking standards for new developments. [43812]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* In 2007 the Departments for Transport and Communities and Local Government together published "Manual for Streets"

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets/

The manual contains detailed guidance on cycle parking for new developments and it is up to authorities whether or not they choose to follow this in their local plans. The Department for Transport is not currently planning any further work on this issue.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42393]

Norman Baker: The central Department and its seven executive Agencies identified the following number of *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed in May 2010. The total includes both permanent and non-permanent employees.

(a) The number of actual staff employed as at 31 May 2010 was 19,648 (2,186 of which were employed in the Central Department).

(b) The number of full-time equivalent staff employed as at 31 May 2010 was 18,603 (2,133 of which were employed in the Central Department).

The Department is undergoing organisational restructuring to contribute to the spending review commitment of a 33% reduction in administration budget (composed of pay and non-pay costs) during the spending review period.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and which staff positions he expects to be removed as part of his Department's programme of internal restructuring. [42429]

Norman Baker: The central Department and its seven Executive Agencies expect to reduce the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) employed by approximately 1,660 as part of organisational restructuring by the end of 2014-15. This is in order to contribute to the spending review commitment of a 33% reduction in the administration budget (composed of pay and non-pay costs) and as a result of other measures to improve efficiency.

Of this overall reduction, a reduction of approximately 480 FTEs will be from the central Department. All posts have been redesigned during this restructuring to ensure they meet the needs of the organisation going forward, have clear responsibility and accountability and add value to each other.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations his Department introduced between 7 December 2010 and 8 February 2011. [42083]

Mike Penning: 15 statutory instruments made by the Department for Transport came into force between 7 December 2010 and 8 February 2011, details of which are set out in the following table.

DFT regulations introduced between 7 December 2010 and 8 February 2011

Title	*Reference*	*In force*
The Bus Lane Contraventions (Approved Local Authorities) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) and Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions Designation (No. 4) Order 2010	2010 No. 2790	31 December 2010

DFT regulations introduced between 7 December 2010 and 8 February 2011

Title	*Reference*	*In force*
The Severn Bridges Tolls Order 2010	2010 No. 3002	1 January 2011
The Cornwall Council (Havle North Quay) Bridge Scheme 2010 Confirmation Instrument 2010	2010 No. 3032	6 January 2011
The M1 Motorway (Junctions 10 to 13 Improvement Connecting Roads) Scheme 2010	2010 No. 2824	9 January 2011
The Traffic Management (Northamptonshire County Council) Permit Scheme Order 2010	2010 No. 2823	10 January 2011
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Asbestos) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 2984	10 January 2011
The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Artificial Optical Radiation) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 2987	10 January 2011
The Motor Fuel (Composition and Content) and Merchant Shipping(Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010 No. 3035	14 January 2011
The Fixed Penalty (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 2720	1 February 2011
The Road Safety (Financial Penalty Deposit) (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 2721	1 February 2011
The Road Safety (Financial Penalty Deposit) (Appropriate Amount) (Amendment) Order 2010	2010 No. 3016	1 February 2011
The River Mersey (Mersey Gateway Bridge) Order 2011	2011 No. 41	1 February 2011
The Shrewsbury (Kingsland) Bridge (Revision of Tolls) Order 2011	2011 No. 71	1 February 2011
The Motor Vehicles (Insurance Requirements) Regulations 2011	2011 No. 20	4 February 2011
The Road Safety Act 2006 (Commencement No. 6) Order 2011	2011 No. 19	4 February 2011

Driving Tests: Fees and Charges

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has given consideration to changing the level of fees charged for driving tests; and if he will make a statement. [43122]

Mike Penning: The test fees charged by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) are set at levels to meet the agency's expenditure.

The agency is not currently planning an overall increase in the fee levels set for its statutory activities, although some rebalancing of fees may occur.

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration the South East Airports Taskforce plans to give to restrictions on night flights at Heathrow airport after October 2012. [43034]

Mrs Villiers: The South East Airports Taskforce is exploring measures to help make the most of existing infrastructure and improve conditions for all users at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

Proposals for post October 2012 restrictions on night flights at Heathrow will be subject to a separate consultation. An announcement about the timing of the consultation will be made in due course.

Pedestrian Crossings

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the replacement of pelican crossings by puffin crossings *(a)* in total and *(b)* per crossing in the last 10 years. [43667]

Norman Baker: All decisions to install or alter pedestrian crossing facilities are taken at local level and the Department for Transport does not hold any information regarding costs incurred by local authorities for this purpose.

Railway Stations: Heating

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 349W, on Network Rail: passengers, if he will assess the merits of introducing a duty to provide a warm waiting area at train stations as part of any future rail franchise agreements. [43159]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has no plans to introduce such a duty. Reforms to the franchise process, such as longer franchises, will give franchisees better incentives for long-term investment in the stations.

Railways: Oxfordshire

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of Network Rail assuming responsibility for the Evergreen 3 project from Chiltern Railways. [44960]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* Chiltern Railways remains compliant with the delivery dates of the Evergreen 3 project laid out in its contract with the Department for Transport. It has not therefore been necessary for the Department to undertake any assessment of Network Rail assuming responsibility for the Evergreen 3 project.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the funding for the Evergreen 3 project his Department is providing. [44961]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* The Department for Transport has not provided Chiltern with any funding for the Evergreen 3 project.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42666]

Norman Baker: The ministerial team supports and encourages volunteering in many ways, in our ministerial roles and as constituency members. We actively support initiatives by participating in visits, attending community events and raising awareness of volunteering through media activity.

Ministerial involvement in charities is recorded in the "List of Ministers' interests". The current list is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/list-ministers-interests

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43246]

Norman Baker: Although the central Department for Transport and its agencies do not have a specific policy to encourage volunteering and payroll giving, opportunities for volunteering activities are promoted on their intranet sites. Case studies of individual and team volunteering are publicised, and employees are encouraged to share their experiences.

Up to three days special paid leave are allowed annually for volunteering, and examples of eligible activities are listed in the staff handbook.

The Department operates and publicises its Give as You Earn (GAYE) payroll giving scheme which enables employees to make regular payments to good causes directly from salary.

The central Department for Transport won the 2010 Volunteering Partnership Award for Innovative Projects for its Fast Stream volunteering mentoring project.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 24052, *(b)* 24053, *(c)* 24051 and *(d)* 24054 tabled on 10 November 2010. [44870]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Regrettably, a rare administrative error in the Department has meant that I have only been able to answer these questions on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 921-22W. I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

EDUCATION

Academies: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the local authority central spend equivalent grant to each academy school was in real terms in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [38027]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* Local authority central spend equivalent grant (LACSEG) is paid to academies by academic year (AY), September to August.

There were 133 academies open in AY 2008/09. LACSEG data for these academies is held by the Department for Education and shown in the table.

There were 202 academies open in AY 2009/10. LACSEG data for these academies is held by the Young People's Learning Agency and shown in the table.

Copies of both tables have been placed in the Library.

Business: Education

Karen Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to develop and promote enterprise education; and if he will make a statement. [38126]

Mr Gibb: The Department currently has a contract with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) to run the Enterprise Network to support enterprise education. The network is made up of Enterprise Learning Partnerships (ELPs), each chaired by a head teacher with representatives on the board from two secondary schools, two primary schools, a special school, a further education college and an employer. There are currently 54 ELPs covering 99.6% of local authority areas in England. Lead practitioners for each sector of education have been identified in each region to share their ideas for enterprise education with their peers.

The contract with SSAT ends in March 2011. Beyond that date, we expect the ELPs to become self-sustaining without Government funding, ensuring a network of local and teacher-led groups to support enterprise education in schools.

From April 2011, if schools wish to provide enterprise education, they may do so of their own accord, either buying in services from enterprise education providers or arranging their own enterprise activities. They will be able to use the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for this purpose which, from financial year 2011-12, will include the £55 million that used to be notionally allocated for enterprise education but is no longer earmarked for that purpose. Schools are free to spend the DSG however they so choose.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39219]

Tim Loughton: Since 1 January 2011 the Department has so far published six tender documents and one contract on Contracts Finder. Prior to this we published six ICT contracts on the Department's website and six tender documents on Business Link. We currently have one tender and one contract being prepared for publication.

The Department has robust systems in place to identify relevant tenders and contracts for publication but I cannot guarantee that some documents may exist that have not yet been identified.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on artwork since May 2010. [36042]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not record expenditure on artwork separately on its accounting system. If this information could be obtained it would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which members of the senior civil service have left his Department since May 2010; on what date and for what reasons the exit occurred in each case; and what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* non-contractual payments were made upon exit to each such staff member. [36819]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: The information for the Department is set out in the following table:

Name (at director level and above only)[1]	*Date of departure*	*Reasons for leaving*	*Contract terms*	*Exit payment (cost to Department) (£)*
Deputy director	31 May	Volunteer Early Release	Non-contractual	410,000-414,999
	30 July	Resignation	n/a	n/a
	15 September	Approved Early Retirement	Non-contractual	195,000-199,999
	15 September	Approved Early Retirement	Non-contractual	205,000-209,999
	24 October	Transferred to another Government Department	n/a	n/a
	31 December	Flexible Early Retirement	Non-contractual	100,000-104,999
Michael Hearty	22 August	Transferred to another Government Department	n/a	n/a
Ian Taylor	30 September	Flexible Early Release	Non-contractual	215,000-219,999

[1] Senior civil service naming and salary protocols are based on the latest published Transparency Agenda exercise criteria.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the most recent previous employment was of each senior staff member employed on a fixed-term contract in his Department since May 2010. [34839]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: Since May 2010, the Department has employed fewer than five individuals in the senior civil service on a fixed-term contract.

Departmental Travel

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on grey fleet in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [28853]

Tim Loughton: Information for the Department is as follows:

	Total cost (£)
2008/09	101,296
2009/10	106,912

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of the named day parliamentary questions tabled for answer by his Department received a substantive answer on the day named between 18 May 2010 and the latest date for which figures are available; [40789]

(2) how many questions for written answer on a named day his Department received between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011; and how many such questions have received a substantive answer on the named day specified to date; [44728]

(3) how many questions for ordinary written answer his Department received between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011; and how many have received a substantive answer to date. [44729]

Tim Loughton *[holding answers 14 February and 7 March 2011]*: The Department has received 728 named day PQs between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011. Of the PQs replied to between the specified dates 10% were answered on the named day.

The Department has received 2166 PQs for ordinary written answer between 11 May 2010 and 28 February 2011, 74% have received a substantive answer.

Disadvantaged: Children

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage voluntary and community sector engagement with local authorities in the delivery of early intervention programmes. [39460]

Sarah Teather: This is a key theme of our reform programme on Sure Start. The Government wants to retain a national network of Sure Start Children's Centres, which offer universal services and proven early interventions to support families in greatest need, and to increase local flexibility to configure services to meet local need. We want to enable more voluntary and community sector organisations to run and deliver services within children's centres; and we are seeking opportunities for public sector workers within children's centres to form employee owned mutuals or cooperatives. The recent Localism Bill included measures to give local organisations and local authority employees the right to challenge local authorities to run services if they can do things better or more cost effectively. The Government are also working with local authorities, the early years sector and the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, to discuss how to overcome practical barriers to increasing voluntary and community sector involvement in children's centres. In addition, the Department is investing £59 million each year over the next two years to directly fund voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver a range of grant funded activities of national significance in relation to children, young people and families, with a particular emphasis on early intervention and supporting the most disadvantaged.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the allocation of the discretionary learner support fund. [38189]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to making sure that young people from low income households can continue in education and training post-16. We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in education.

Education Endowment Fund

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* further education colleges will be eligible to submit applications (i) to the Education Endowment Fund proposed in paragraph 7.12 of the White Paper, The Importance of Teaching and (ii) for a share of the £35 million collaboration incentive fund set out in paragraph 7.13 of the same document. [34988]

Mr Gibb: The purpose of the Education Endowment Fund is to fund bold and innovative approaches into ways of raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in underperforming schools. If a sixth form or a further education college considered it could support an underperforming school to raise attainment then it would be eligible to submit an application for consideration to the organisation administering the Fund.

The intention of the collaboration incentive as described in the Schools White Paper is to reward schools who support weaker schools demonstrably to improve their performance while also improving their own. The design of the scheme is still in progress, and so no decision has yet been taken about whether sixth form and further education colleges are in scope for any of its activities.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which body will monitor the effects on students of the proposed changes to student financial support in further education; and when he expects initial estimates of the *(a)* level of funding allocated per student per institution and *(b)* number of young people receiving (i) funds and (ii) other assistance through the Discretionary Learner Support Fund to be available. [26511]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency currently allocate the discretionary learner support fund to schools, colleges and training providers on behalf of the Department for Education. The funds are currently allocated according to a formula which takes into account a range of factors including the student population and levels of deprivation. We are considering the replacement for the EMA, including how the funds should be allocated to ensure that support is targeted on those children who most need it to allow them to continue in education.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on the ability of students to travel of the abolition of education maintenance allowance. [35669]

Mr Gibb: We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in learning, including to help them to meet transport costs.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements to ensure that young people can attend education. They must publish a statement each year which sets out the support they will provide for transport.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the costs it will incur as a result of the replacement of the education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [36958]

Mr Gibb: We are working with the Young People's Learning Agency, which administers the education maintenance allowance on behalf of the Department for Education, to assess any costs that may arise from the replacement of education maintenance allowance with a package of financial support that is better targeted to those students facing genuine financial barriers to participation.

Free School Meals: Blackpool

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children receive *(a)* free school meals and *(b)* education maintenance allowance in each local authority ward in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [37302]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the following table:

The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Maintained nursery[1], Maintained primary[2], state-funded secondary[2, 3] and special[4] schools: School meal arrangements[5, 6]. As at January 2010. By each ward within Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituency

	Maintained nursery[1] and primary[2]			*State-funded secondary[2, 3]*			*Special[4]*		
	Number on roll[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[5, 6]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[5, 6]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
Anchorsholme	794	73	9.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bispham	206	23	11.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bourne	577	106	18.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	136	48	35.3
Claremont	489	279	57.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cleveleys Park	182	51	28.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greenlands	402	122	30.3	1,443	503	34.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ingthorpe	752	147	19.5	1,440	154	10.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jubilee	280	54	22.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Layton	604	178	29.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norbreck	576	86	14.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Park	564	353	62.6	1,865	388	20.8	29	9	31.0
Warbreck	208	36	17.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blackpool North and Cleveleys (all wards)	5,634	1,518	26.9	4,748	1,045	22.0	165	57	34.5

n/a = Not applicable. No schools at this type.

[1] There are no maintained nursery schools in Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituency.

[2] Includes middle schools as deemed,

[3] Includes city technology colleges and academies, however there are no schools of this type in Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituency,

[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[6] Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 0 to 15. or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged 5 to 15.

Source:
School Census

The question of how many young people in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency received EMA is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Launer, dated 1 February 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ37302.

The Department of Education has responded to you regarding the first part of your question. I have been asked to provide a reply to the latter part of your question regarding how many children in each local authority ward in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available for upper tier local authorities but not by constituency. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 31 December 2010, the take-up figure for young people in Blackpool local authority area who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year was 1,366.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Free Schools: Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has allocated to expenditure on consultant to support free school proposers to develop business cases and arrange school administration. [29397]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not set aside an allocation specifically for consultancy support for Free Schools to develop business cases and arrange school administration.

Members: Correspondence

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 6 January 2011, reference AR/DDS/564, on behalf of her constituent Mr Kilroy. [45271]

Tim Loughton: We acknowledge receipt of the letter from the hon. Member. The issues raised in the correspondence are cross cutting and are the responsibility of more than one Department. Responses are being carefully considered before a full and final response is sent in the near future.

Outdoor Education

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the adequacy of support for the use of fieldwork as a teaching method in teacher training courses. [41442]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* The initial teacher training (ITT) requirements require that providers of ITT design, deliver and assess training to enable trainee teachers to demonstrate that they have met all of the QTS standards. This includes preparing trainees to teach outside the classroom.

The guidance accompanying QTS standard Q30 provides links to the "Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto" and the "Teaching Outside the Classroom Programme Website". It also offers links to four case studies that chart high quality provision in training teachers to teach outside of the classroom. The teacher training resource bank provides support for trainers and their trainees and currently hosts 37 resources related to fieldwork, including geography and science-related subject specific resources. In addition, there are 152 resources relating to education outside the classroom including a National Foundation for Educational Research survey report on provision in ITT, and the "Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom".

ITT providers are regularly inspected by Ofsted to ensure that they continue to comply with the ITT requirements, that their provision is high quality, and that they have the capacity to improve the quality of that provision.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that children from low income families are not excluded from participating in out of school learning because of the cost of such activities. [41535]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 February 2011]:* Learning outside the classroom can play a valuable role in any child's educational experience. Existing legislation prevents schools from charging for any visit that takes place during school time, is being undertaken as part of the national curriculum, or as part of preparing a child for a prescribed public examination. Schools may make a charge for board and lodging on residential trips, but parents of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) will be exempt from paying this cost.

From April 2011 we are introducing the pupil premium to support the attainment of deprived children who are currently eligible for FSM, children looked after for more than six months and FSM pupils in non-mainstream settings. Schools may in future wish to consider using the pupil premium funding to enable such children to benefit from out of school educational activities.

Primary Education: Finance

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he has allocated to rebuilding and improvement of primary schools in England in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [45272]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education's capital spending will be £15.8 billion over the four-year CSR period. So far capital allocations have been announced for the financial year 2011-12 and the outcome of the capital review which is due to report in the spring will inform funding from 2012-13 onwards.

Capital funding is not set aside specifically for primary schools. It is the responsibility of each local authority to assess the building requirements of all the maintained schools in its area and prioritise the available resources. However, we have set aside £800 million for 2011-12 to support capital funding specifically where it is urgently necessary to increase the number of school places available in response to population changes in a local area.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students in *(a)* Newton Abbot constituency and *(b)* Devon who will qualify for the pupil premium. [36167]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* The January 2010 school censuses allow an estimate of the number of eligible pupils to be made.

In Newton Abbot in January 2010 there were 1,390 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £597,700. This does not include pupils recorded on the alternative provision census (ie those funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in non-maintained special schools, further education establishments, etc.); those who are not following the national curriculum, although these pupils are eligible for the pupil premium if they are aged between 4 and 15 years, or service children, as these figures are not available at constituency level.

In Devon in January 2010 there were 10,590 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £4,553,700. In addition to this there were 775 pupils known to be eligible for the service child premium, which would give rise to a further £155,000.

However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed. The number of eligible pupils in 2011 could be higher or lower.

Note:

For the local authority the above estimates include FSM-eligible pupils, in Reception to Year 11, or the appropriate age-range if not following the national curriculum, as at the January 2010 school census, pupil referral unit census and the alternative provision census (ie those pupils funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in non-maintained special schools, further education establishments, etc.) and those eligible for the looked-after child pupil premium. Pupil numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of students who would qualify for the pupil premium under a system based on *(a)* Mosaic and *(b)* Acorn calculations. [36408]

Mr Gibb: Both Mosaic and Acorn are commercially produced classifications of postcodes into types based on the characteristics of residents and their consumer behaviour. This information is derived from a wide range of data. Acorn classifies at postcode level while Mosaic classifies at both households and postcodes.

As such, neither Mosaic nor Acorn identifies individual pupils as deprived; rather they group areas with other similar areas. Were this to be used for the pupil premium a decision would need to be made about which areas should be defined as 'deprived'. The number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium using either of these methods would depend on which 'types' were chosen to represent areas of deprivation. The more types selected, the more pupils would be living in them.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the level of funding per school pupil in the maintained sector in England in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [28964]

Mr Gibb: The estimated level of funding per pupil in schools in the maintained sector in England for 2010-11 is £4,082.88. The estimated level of funding per pupil for 2011-12 is not yet available.

On 13 December the Government announced the school funding settlement for 2011-12 which provides for the schools' budget to be maintained at flat cash per pupil overall, meaning that it will rise in line with increases in pupil numbers. In addition to the settlement for the underlying schools budget, the pupil premium will provide additional funding for schools with deprived pupils. Set at £430 this year at a total cost of £625 million, it will rise to £2.5 billion in 2014-15.

School Capital Funding

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who was responsible for the appointment of the Chair of the review of school capital funding. [39666]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education, made the appointment.

School Leaving and Truancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of teenagers *(a)* did not complete their schooling and *(b)* were absent from school without authorisation in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each of the last five years. [38497]

Mr Gibb: Information on the proportion of teenagers who did not complete their schooling is not collected by this Department, nor can it be accurately derived from the data currently collected on pupils.

Information on pupil absence is collected for pupils of compulsory school age only. Information on pupils aged 12 to 15 as at 31 August 2009 who were absent from school without authorisation in each local authority area and parliamentary constituency in 2008/09 has been placed in the House Libraries. To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Schools: Admissions

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on provision for children of service families in the schools admissions code. [37045]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education received a representation on 16 December 2010 from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) regarding children of service families and the School Admissions Code, in the light of discussions that had already taken place between the two Departments. This representation included the views of the Children's Education Advisory Service, which provides advice to service families on education and schools. Continued discussion of these matters with the MOD is helping to inform the review of the School Admissions Code, announced in the Schools White Paper—"the importance of Teaching".

Schools: Capital Investment

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the report of the James Review into the allocation of capital for schools. [43372]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* The Capital Review team will report to Ministers in the spring.

Schools: Crawley

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce the budget for School Sport Partnership funding for schools in Crawley constituency for academic year 2011-12. [42418]

Tim Loughton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has announced that he will not continue to provide ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships beyond 31 August 2011.

Instead, the Secretary of State is making available £65 million of new funding for schools to enable them to provide more opportunities for competitive sport. This funding will cover the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and will pay for one day a week of a secondary PE teacher's time to be spent out of the classroom, encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport in primary schools and securing a fixture network for schools to increase the amount of intra- and inter-school sporting competition. This will include schools in the Crawley constituency.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to provide pupil-focused careers advice to pupils of all ages in all schools. [38125]

Mr Gibb: The Education Bill proposes a statutory duty on schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for all pupils aged 13 to 16. The guidance should be presented in an impartial manner and include information on 16 to 18 education or training options, including apprenticeships. Schools will have the freedom to decide how best to fulfil this duty in accordance with the needs of their pupils. This approach is founded on a partnership model where schools work alongside specialist careers advisers to ensure all pupils have access to appropriate levels of high quality support.

Science: GCSE

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the availability of triple science GCSEs in deprived areas; [37436]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to increase the *(a)* availability and *(b)* take-up of triple science GCSEs in deprived areas. [37437]

Mr Gibb: The following table gives the number and percentage of pupils[1] at the end of key stage 4 entering biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs by IDACI decile[2,3] of pupil residence[4], in 2009/10.

IDACI decile[2, 3]	*Number of resident pupils*	*Number of resident pupils entering biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs*	*Percentage of resident pupils entering biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs*
0-10% most deprived	66,170	5,425	8.2
10-20%	62,067	5,891	9.5
20-30%	58,984	6,631	11.2
30-0%	56,409	7,480	13.3
40-50%	56,023	8,830	15.8
50-60%	55,133	9,759	17.7
60-70%	54,704	10,813	19.8
70-80%	55,460	12,003	21.6
80-90%	54,900	13,025	23.7
90-100% least deprived	54,121	14,825	27.4

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 at the end of the academic year.

[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices. Each Super Output Areas (SOAs) in England is given a score which ranks it between 1 and 32,482, 1 being the most deprived. (SOAs were introduced in 2004 as a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. Lower Layers have a minimum population of 1000, and there are 32,482 LSOAs (Lower Layer Super Output Areas) in England.)

[3] IDACI bands are based on 2007 IDACI scores.

[4] Only includes pupils who are resident in England attending maintained schools, City Technology Colleges and academies. The residency of 1,755 children is unknown due to missing or invalid postcode information. These children are excluded from the figures in the table.

Source:

National Pupil Database (Amended data)

This shows that, while the number of state funded schools offering triple science has risen from 27% to over 70% in six years, the proportion of pupils entered for triple science GCSE is lower in deprived areas. The Government want to ensure that triple science GCSE is available in all schools and to any pupil who can benefit, and we have already introduced a number of measures to achieve this. We have encouraged schools to offer triple science by including it in the English Baccalaureate. We are also taking steps to increase the number and quality of science teachers, for example by expanding programmes such as Teach First and by looking at how to encourage graduates to teach in shortage subjects, including physics and chemistry.

The recent Schools White Paper confirms that we will support schools to offer triple science. We plan to announce details of how this support will be focused on increasing take up by those pupils who live in the most deprived areas.

Specialist Schools: Finance

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on publishing the level of capital grant paid to specialist schools upon initial designation. [17374]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* In line with the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review announced on 20 October, funding for specialist schools, including high performing specialist schools (HPSS), will be mainstreamed from April 2011. This funding, approximately £450 million in 2010-11, is not being removed from the schools system and will continue to be routed to schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Details of the funding principles and individual school allocations can be found there under the 'Funding for specialist schools' webpage at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/specialistschools/a0065479/funding-for-specialist-schools

Students: Finance

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what formula he plans to use to determine how much each provider of post-16 education receives from the learner support fund; and whether this formula will be amended following the end of the education maintenance allowance. [37175]

Mr Gibb: Discretionary learner support funds are currently allocated according to a formula which takes into account a range of factors including the student population and levels of deprivation.

We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance, including how the funds should be allocated, to ensure that support is targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to continue in education.

Supplementary Schools

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy is on the role of supplementary schools within general education policy; and if he will make a statement. [36966]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education believes that supplementary schools make an effective contribution to community cohesion and have an important part to play in the education and social development of children and young people.

Over the past two years, the Department has provided a total of £445,000 to the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education to help raise the profile of supplementary schools and to improve standards of teaching and management.

Sure Start Programme: Finance

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the level of funding for the Sure Start programme in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that funds provided to local authorities for the programme are spent on that programme. [24513]

Sarah Teather: The spending review announced that funding for Sure Start will be maintained in cash terms over the next spending review period, including investment in health visitors. The total allocated in 10-11 for Sure

Start children's centres was £1,135 million. From April 2011, funding for Sure Start will form part of the new un-ringfenced Early Intervention Grant which in total is worth £2,222 million in 2011-12 and £2,307 million in 2012-13. It is for local authorities to determine the most effective use of the funding in the Early Intervention Grant. We have ensured there is enough money in the Early Intervention Grant to maintain a network of Sure Start children's centres, accessible to all, while identifying and supporting families in greatest need.

Intervening early makes sense socially, morally and financially. Local authorities continue to have duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and to secure sufficient provision to meet local need, so far as is reasonably practicable. In addition, the Department for Education's partner supporting local authorities' work on children's centres until March 2011, Together for Children, will be ready to assist local authorities in making plans to keep centres open.

Three Valleys Independent Academy

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has received a proposal for a Three Valleys Independent Academy in Rotherham. [34651]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has received a proposal for Three Valleys Independent Academy in Rotherham. This Free School Proposal was approved to move to business case and plan stage on 14 January 2011.

Westminster Academy

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* list of speakers, *(c)* budget and *(d)* invitation list is for the event on free schools he plans to attend at the Westminster Academy on 29 January 2011; and whether speakers will receive (i) remuneration and (ii) expenses for attending the event. [37084]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The requested information regarding the conference agenda and speakers can be found in the following table:

	Agenda
8.45	Registration and refreshments
10.00	Welcome and introduction David Bell, Permanent Secretary, Department for Education
10.05	Visualising a new school landscape Right hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education
10.25	Understanding the proposition Lesley Longstone, Director General, School Infrastructure and Funding Directorate, Department for Education
10.45	Learning from the best: international evidence Joel Klein, Former New York City Public Schools Chancellor (now CEO, Educational Division, News Corporation) Mike Feinberg, Co-founder, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Aaron Brenner, Head of Primary Schools, KIPP Houston Paul Castro, Head of High Schools, KIPP Houston Josephine Baker, Executive Director, Washington D.C. Public Charter School Board Monique Miller, Performance Manager, Washington D.C. Public Charter School Board Karinne Kennedy, a parent whose children attend The SEED School of Washington
12.00	Q and A session Right hon. Michael Gove MP, Lord Hill, Joel Klein, Mike Feinberg, Josephine Baker
12.30	Lunch and networking
13.30	Workshop session 1
14.35	Workshop session 2
15.35	Submitting a proposal—best practice Rachel Wolf, Director, New Schools Network
15.55	The Class of 2011 Mela Watts, Director of Free Schools, Department for Education
16.10	Final remarks and close

The total budget for the conference was £35,460.89.

The invitations were sent out by the New Schools Network. We are unable to supply the individual names of those on the invitation list due to the restrictions under the Data Protection Act The 400 delegates consisted of parents, teachers and organisations who have expressed an interest in opening a free school. Partner/stakeholder organisations and Government officials also attended the conference.

The speakers did not receive any remuneration for attending the event. The Department covered the travel and accommodation costs for each of the international speakers, which included a return economy flight from the US, accommodation costs at a Department-approved hotel and one evening meal.

Young People: Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged 16 and 17 years were placed in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation in the latest period for which figure are available. [38334]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of people aged 16 and 17 years who were placed in emergency bed and breakfast is not available centrally. Revised statutory guidance was issued in 2010 to local authorities on meeting the needs of homeless 16 and 17-year-olds. This makes clear that bed and breakfast accommodation is not considered suitable for 16 and 17-year-olds even on an emergency basis.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Bolton

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided to Bolton local authority for community cohesion projects in each of the last three years. [44827]

Andrew Stunell: A total of £280,000 was allocated to Bolton in the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 for community cohesion projects via un-ringfenced area based grant.

The following table shows the Department's total cohesion spend for each financial year from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Community cohesion funding area-based grant in Bolton

	£
2008-09	49,412
2009-10	90,588
2010-11	140,000
Total	280,000

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45087]

Robert Neill: In January 2011 the Department for Communities and Local Government paid 92.47% of invoices within 10 days and in February 2011 93.23% of invoices were paid within 10 days.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of his Department's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42632]

Robert Neill: DCLG's own standard practices already ensure that outcome-based commissioning of services is our default method. We are engaging with suppliers, prioritising on those most relevant such as facilities management, to review their approach to training and skills.

Departmental Expenditure

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government Offices for the Regions spent on calls to speaking clock services in each of the last three financial years. [43783]

Greg Clark: Information on the costs of any calls made over the last three financial years can be provided only at disproportionate cost although calls to certain premium rate numbers are barred from digital phones, there are a small number of analogue phones installed in each Government Office for emergency use that do not bar access to the speaking clock.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45086]

Robert Neill: No transactions in this category have taken place.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on external legal advice in *(a)* January and *(b)* February 2011. [43913]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 3 March 2011]:* The Department spent £151,921 on external legal advice in January; the figure for February will be available in due course.

As I indicated in a previous answer to the right hon. Member, this compares to a comparable spend of £4.8 million in 2009-10.

Departmental Manpower

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible. [43544]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government are committed to improving transparency, including the setting of senior pay. In March 2010, the Review Body on Senior Salaries commented that

'there seems to us to be insufficient transparency on top-level reward in the public sector'

(Initial report on Public Sector Senior Remuneration 2010, Cm 7848).

The coalition programme includes commitments to publish salary information for most of the senior civil service and to publish organograms for the entire organisation. As a first step, the Government published the details of 345 senior officials in Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in post at 31 March 2010 whose rate of pay was £150,000 or more.

This was extended to lower levels of the senior civil service (SCS) as part of the organograms that were published last October. Although individualised salary details for the most junior level of the SCS (pay bands 1 and 1A) were not released, the numbers and grades of staff in each of their teams and the total salary costs of that team were published.

The level of disclosure for senior civil servants is going to be further reviewed prior to the next exercise, in April 2011.

In addition, the names of the special advisers in post, including each special adviser's pay band, actual salary where this is £58,200 or higher, together with details of the special advisers' pay ranges for 2010-11, were most recently published in the Prime Minister's statement of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 18WS.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department were in the Civil Service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44353]

Robert Neill: There were no staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government redeployment pool on 3 March 2011. The Department's redeployment pool, known as the Career Transition Centre, was closed at the end of January 2011 and surplus staff were deployed across the Department.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much special advisers in his Department claimed in expenses in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [43859]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 765W and 11 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 419W.

These show that the following expenses were claimed in each year:

	£
2007-08	1,952.88
2008-09	4,407.35
2009-10	1,327.90

Departmental Press

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on newspaper *(a)* supplements and *(b)* advertorials in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10; and (A) in which publication and (B) for what purpose in each case. [43776]

Robert Neill: The Department buys media space through the Central Office of Information. Their records show the following total annual expenditure on purchasing press advertising by the Department:

2007-08: £3,116,567

2008-09: £2,898,805

2009-10: £1,860,579

Neither the Department nor the Central Office of Information hold records which distinguish between the different types of press advertising space purchased.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency and (B) non-departmental public body for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43962]

Robert Neill: The cost of the Department's *(a)* procurement function for the last financial year, 2009-10, was £1.39 million. The Department does not have *(b)* an outsourcing function.

Information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I can confirm that the cost of the procurement function in the last financial year 2009-10, in the Planning Inspectorate was £191,695 and in the Housing and Communities Agency was £787,538.

Departmental Video Recordings

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on film production and associated costs for video messages from each Secretary of State in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [43781]

Robert Neill: The information requested is as follows:

2008-09 costs are:

Hazel Blears video message for Tiger 11 Regeneration Summit, November 2008—£1,850

Hazel Blears video message for REACH Programme event, March 2009—£1,808

Hazel Blears film launching the local government White Paper: "Communities in Control: Real People Real Power", August 2008—£11,790

This gives a total spend of £15,448.

2009-10 costs are:

John Denham filmed at the Scrutiny Conference, February 2010—£793

The above costs compare with a zero spend since May 2010.

Departmental Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department and its agencies have provided to *(a)* Global Action Plan, *(b)* Forum for the Future, *(c)* the Green Alliance and *(d)* the New Economics Foundation in the last three years; and for what purpose in each case. [43846]

Robert Neill: No funding was made by this Department and its agencies to the named organisations in the last three financial years.

Electoral Reform Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value was of contracts his Department placed with Electoral Reform Services in each year since 2005. [44212]

Robert Neill: The Department has had no contracts with Electoral Reform Services in any years since 2005.

Energy Performance Certificates

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he gave to the merits of including in the Energy Bill a requirement that *(a)* energy performance certificates (EPC) are produced when a property is marketed and *(b)* for the EPC to be prominently displayed in property sales literature. [44626]

Andrew Stunell: The requirement for an Energy Performance Certificate to be provided at the point of marketing to a prospective buyer or tenant is part of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

The requirement for the Certificate to be prominently displayed in property sales literature is part of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

External Audit Services

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by his Department incurred on engaging in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43758]

Robert Neill: DCLG has its own internal audit service and does not routinely purchase audit services externally. However over the last three years DCLG engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide interim support to internal audit and they were paid as follows:

Fiscal year	£
2008-09	297,221
2009-10	326,061
2010-11	[1]163,636
Grand total	786,918

[1] Projected to end March

The contract with PwC ends this year.

External audits are undertaken by the National Audit Office and are reported as a notional cost in the resource accounts as follows:

	£
2008-09	427,000
2009-10	447,000
2010-11	[1]420,000

[1] Expected to be

Information on costs incurred by public bodies sponsored by the Department is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Food: Procurement

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43325]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not directly procure food. Catering services are provided via the Department's total facilities management contracts. In the case of DCLG's HQ building, Eland House, this is delivered through Mitie plc.

The Department works with suppliers, actively promoting DEFRA guidelines that food procured meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs,

Freedom of Information

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public authority holds the archived records of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and at what location the records are held. [44024]

Robert Neill: The records of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are currently held by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The records are stored by TNT, the Department's external records storage provider, in their storage facility in West Thurrock.

Government Procurement Card

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and how many transactions each made in each such year. [43841]

Robert Neill: Figures for the Department (including those of the Department's arms length bodies using the central programme) and the Department's agencies are as follows:

	2008-09		*2009-10*	
	Transactions	*Value (£)*	*Transactions*	*Value (£)*
DCLG (Central)	2349	549,983	1623	314,559
Government Office Network	4209	2,248,247	4277	1,973,149
Residential Property tribunal Services/Rent Assessment Panels	625	95,247	873	138,604

	2008-09		2009-10	
	Transactions	*Value (£)*	*Transactions*	*Value (£)*
Infrastructure Planning Commission	0	0	76	44,260
Agencies:				
Planning Inspectorate	1081	154,670	1220	146,539
Fire Service College	437	222,432	387	178,683
Queen Elizabeth 11 Conference Centre	497	65,699	504	87,223

Housing: Regeneration

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing market renewal funding was allocated to Stoke-on-Trent in the last three years; what transitional relief funding for housing market renewal will be allocated to Stoke-on-Trent in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [45152]

Grant Shapps: The RENEW North Staffordshire Pathfinder, for which Stoke on Trent city council is the accountable body, was allocated £108.2 million of housing market renewal funding in 2008-11. Dedicated funding for the housing market renewal programme ends in March 2011 and with the country facing a record deficit and less money available for top-down investment, we need to find innovative ways to deliver regeneration. This will require an ambitious and creative approach to the new funding sources such as new homes bonus, affordable rent/empty homes and private sector and asset based investment. I have also announced a transition fund of £5 million for growth and housing market renewal areas to retain key capacity to help tackle these issues.

The new homes bonus, for example, is payable both on new build and on bringing long-term empty homes back into use. Stoke on Trent's provisional new homes bonus allocation for 2011-12 is £1,105,641. There will need to be a much greater emphasis on refurbishment than previously. Where local authorities in former housing market renewal areas wish to develop a transition plan based on this approach, my Department and the Homes and Community Agency will be ready to help.

Local Government Finance

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has to review the funding formula for fire authorities; and if he will make a statement; [44525]

(2) what plans he has to review the funding formula for local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [44527]

Robert Neill: The provisional Local Government Finance Settlements for 2011-12 and 2012-13 were announced on 13 December 2010. The final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2011-12, setting out funding for local authorities, including police authorities and fire and rescue services, was approved by the House of Commons on 9 February 2011. Details of the final settlement for 2011-12 and the provisional settlement for 2012-13 are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/grant.htm

The Local Government Resource Review will consider options to enable councils to retain their locally-raised business rates, and will deliver proposals this year. Such an approach will help set free many local councils from dependency on central Government funding and provide incentives, through the business rates system, for councils to promote economic growth.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grant spending data for items over £500 have been published by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its Executive agencies, *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies, *(d)* its public corporations and *(e)* the Government offices for the Regions since May 2010. [43867]

Robert Neill: Since 12 May 2010 DCLG has published all spend data above £500 (including all grants). Data are published on a month by month basis. We also publish grant payments processed by the Government offices on behalf of DCLG.

We have also published all grant data for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Arm's length bodies (including Executive agencies, non-departmental bodies and public corporations) publish all their spend data over £500, including any grant expenditure, on their own websites, except for the Planning Inspectorate and QEII Conference Centre which publish via the DCLG website.

Local Government: Accountancy

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department takes in the event of a local authority's accounts being qualified. [44374]

Robert Neill: The qualification of a local authority's financial accounts is a matter for the authority themselves and their auditors.

Local Government: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on levels of pay for local authority staff; and if he will make a statement. [44316]

Robert Neill: A number of representations have been received on levels of pay for local authority staff from Members of Parliament, leaders of local authorities, local trades union branches and members of the public who were primarily concerned about levels of pay for senior local government employees.

The level of pay of local authority staff is for each local authority to determine in the light of local circumstances. However, the Government expects local authorities to show restraint particularly when setting senior pay and with voluntary pay reductions from the very top earners.

The Government believe that there needs to be greater transparency and local democratic accountability over remuneration given to senior employees in local government. Provisions in the Localism Bill will ensure that in future decisions on such matters are for the full council to agree and publish a senior pay policy statement. The Secretary of State will be consulting on guidance shortly and has made clear his preference that the full council vote on all new appointments over £100,000.

The Government are currently consulting on a Draft Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, which includes salary disclosure, setting out the government's preference that the threshold for disclosure should be those earning above £58,200.

Non-domestic Rates

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of non-domestic rates that is uncollected in the latest period for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the total monetary value of outstanding non-domestic rates; and if he will make a statement. [44372]

Robert Neill: As at 31 March 2010 local authorities in England reported that they had collected 97.8% of the national non-domestic rates due in respect of 2009-10, leaving 2.2% uncollected at that date. Collection of non-domestic rates continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended so this means that the final collection rate achieved is somewhere between the figures shown here and 100%.

This information is available in Table 3 of the Statistical Release "Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2009-10" that is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates

At 31 March 2010 local authorities in England reported that a total of £1,117 million of national non-domestic rates was still outstanding. This is only a snapshot of the position because, as mentioned above, collection of non-domestic rates continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended so local authorities are continually working to recover outstanding non-domestic rates.

Open-cast Mining

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of land remediation following the closure of open-cast mining operations; and if he will make a statement. [42211]

Robert Neill: This Department has not carried out an assessment of this type but we would expect mineral planning authorities in England, when granting planning permission for open-cast mining, to set site aftercare and restoration conditions. Such conditions are intended to secure the high standard of restoration of the land concerned. Additionally there are a number of post-extraction requirements on operators arising from the licence to operate issued by the UK Coal Authority and, if applicable, from the environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency.

Planning

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings he has had with *(a)* English Heritage and *(b)* the Council for British Archaeology on proposed changes to the national planning policy framework. [44914]

Robert Neill: English Heritage was one of many organisations represented at a conference on the National Planning Policy Framework on 4 March. A meeting has not to date been held with the Council for British Archaeology.

Regional Planning and Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he intends to commence work on the strategic environmental assessment required prior to the revocation of regional spatial strategies following the judgment of 22 October 2010 in the case of Cala Homes (South) Limited, and whether he plans to make provision for stakeholders and the wider public to engage in the process consistent with the Government's obligations under the Aarhus Convention. [44637]

Robert Neill: I will be making a statement on this matter shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home energy efficiency and *(b)* micro-generation schemes have been undertaken by registered social landlords in each of the last five years. [44659]

Andrew Stunell: Management of their stock is a matter for individual registered providers of social housing and the information requested is not collected centrally. Information on the numbers of energy efficiency measures present in social housing up to 2008 is included in the English Housing Survey 2008 Housing Stock Report, which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/ehs2008stockreport

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in expenditure on *(a)* home energy efficiency and *(b)* micro-generation schemes on social housing projects. [44660]

Andrew Stunell: The Government's approach to supporting energy efficiency and micro-generation is through the introduction of mechanisms such as the Green Deal and the renewable heat incentive which, along with the existing feed-in tariff, are expected to lead to an increase in the amount of investment in energy efficiency and micro-generation in all homes, including social housing. My Department is working with local authorities and registered providers of social housing to ensure that they are well placed to use these mechanisms to maximise investment in their stock.

Alongside this, while the Government's priority is to deal with the deficit, we have provided £2.1 billion for improvement to social housing through the Decent Homes Programme. The £1.6 billion of this to be allocated to local authorities over the next four years will help make up to 150,000 council homes decent, including improvements to thermal comfort through the installation of modern heating systems and insulation.

Sustainable Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to include in proposed regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 a requirement for the Secretary of State *(a)* to try to reach agreement on each proposal made under the Act and *(b)* to publish details of the steps the Secretary of State took in attempting to reach agreement with the Selector. [43353]

Greg Clark: The Government will publish a consultation seeking views on the contents of new regulations to be made under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, and will make a statement shortly.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative. [42646]

Greg Clark: The Department for Communities and Local Government is supporting the big society through the Localism Bill in which we are introducing major reforms to public services and providing new rights for communities. Through these structural reforms, promoting transparency and strengthening local democracy, we are making Government and local councils more responsive to local residents as well as reducing burdens and control from Whitehall. This will free people to take more control of their lives, the places they live and local public services.

We are also working to remove bureaucratic barriers that hold back local action, and have opened up a 'Barrier Busting' website for communities to identify them. We have also been working with four 'vanguard' communities, which the Prime Minster described as 'training grounds of change', to help local communities build their idea of the big society.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the list of payments to charities and voluntary groups published in his Department's resource accounts for 2009-10, whether the list included payments to bodies which were not registered charities. [43852]

Robert Neill: The list of payments to charities and voluntary groups published in the Department's 2009-10 resource accounts are those made under Section 70 of the Charities Act 2006. The legislation grants the power to pay any charitable benevolent or philanthropic institution and therefore does not only apply to organisations that are registered charities.

Therefore there will be organisations to whom the department paid a grant under this power which were included in the list in the resource accounts who are not registered charities.

Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the winding-up of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation; and if he will make a statement. [44373]

Robert Neill: Good progress is being made in respect of the transfer of Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to Thurrock borough council. A first step towards this will be the co-location of the corporation with Thurrock council at its Grays offices. This will enable them to work more closely together during the final year of the corporation's operation. This co-location is an important step which will generate a number of benefits, for instance by encouraging the council and corporation to work together more effectively on regeneration and planning; and by promoting the sharing of knowledge and expertise between staff at the corporation and council and thereby strengthening the council's capacity to drive regeneration.

Preparations for an orderly transition of the corporation's projects and planning functions before 1 April 2012 are underway.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish new guidance for local councils on Gypsy and Traveller sites. [44789]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether national policy on planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites is contained in circular ODPM 01/2006; what plans he has to revoke such guidance; and what consideration he has given to replacing it as a consequence of the abolition of regional spatial strategies. [44916]

Robert Neill: Current national planning policy for Gypsy and Traveller sites is set out in Circular 01/2006: "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". The Government have announced their intention to withdraw Circular 01/2006. We will replace it with a fair, short, light-touch new policy. This is being done as part of a broader package of reforms, including the abolition of Regional Strategies, to consolidate and streamline planning policy, decentralise the planning system and strengthen the role of elected councils. There will be a full public consultation on our proposed new planning policy for Traveller sites shortly.

Travellers: Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department gave to *(a)* Traveller groups and *(b)* associated representative bodies providing support or assistance to Traveller groups in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and how much and for what purpose in each case. [43854]

Andrew Stunell: The information is as follows:

2008-09: Nil

2009-10: The Rural Media Company—£112,815.00—to fund publication of the Travellers Times Friends, Families and Travellers—£132,000—to fund support to Gypsy and Traveller groups

Vacant Land

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidance issued by his Department determines responsibility for preventing building on greenfield land when brownfield land is available for development; and whether he has any plans to amend such responsibilities following enactment of the Localism Bill. [44970]

Greg Clark: Under the Town and Country Planning Acts, planning decisions are the responsibility of local planning authorities in the first instance, having regard to national planning policy.

The National Planning Policy Framework will set out the Government's planning for housing policies. A full consultation on the policies within the framework will be issued this summer. The current planning policy position on housing is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing.

Voluntary Work and Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has a policy to encourage its employees to *(a)* volunteer and *(b)* donate via payroll giving. [43232]

Robert Neill: The Department does have a policy to encourage employees to volunteer. Staff are entitled to spend up to six days a year volunteering to support charities and other civil society organisations. Our staff volunteering policy meets the recent Government commitment to allow staff across the civil service to volunteer at least one day each year.

The Department also participates in the 'Give As You Earn' (GAYE) Payroll Giving Scheme which enables employees to make donations to charity direct from their salary. The scheme is administered by the Charity Aid Foundation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned vehicles were recorded in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire, *(f)* Norfolk and *(g)* England in each year since 1997. [44238]

Richard Benyon: Figures on abandoned vehicles were reported by local authorities to DEFRA between 2000 and 2004 in the Municipal Waste Management Survey and from 2004 to 2008 via WasteDataFlow, and are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/waste/wrabanvehicles.htm

More recent data (up to June 2010) on the number of abandoned vehicles collected by local authorities can be downloaded from the WasteDataFlow website directly at:

http://www.wastedataflow.co.uk/Register.aspx

As DEFRA only began compiling figures on abandoned vehicles by way of the Municipal Waste Management Survey in 2000-01, numbers prior to then are not available.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims to the Rural Payments Agency for Single Farm Payments are outstanding from 2010; and when she expects such payments to be made. [44250]

Mr Paice: Latest figures show that as at 28 February 2011, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) had made payments totalling £1.435 billion to 95,306 English farmers.

Processing now continues on 10,000 or so claims where no payment has been made to date and RPA is working to validate these as quickly as possible. Some of these are complex cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. It is likely that work on these claims will reveal that some will not be eligible for payment.

For further details, I refer my hon. Friend to the written statement I made on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on this issue.

Aviation: Noise

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will include in the next edition of her Guidance Note on the duties of relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty an increased emphasis on the requirement to ensure tranquillity in respect of noise from aviation. [45226]

Richard Benyon: I have no present plans to update the guidance.

Beef: Imports

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the import of *(a)* beef and *(b)* pork from Brazil. [45211]

Mr Paice: The importation of meat from third countries, including Brazil must be in accordance with harmonised rules laid down in European Union legislation. Imported meat must:

come from an approved country;

be accompanied by appropriate animal and public health certification; and

must come from EU approved plants in the exporting country;

meat from Brazil must also come from an approved holding.

All meat imported from third countries must be accompanied by veterinary certification. This must confirm that the meat is derived from animals that have been subjected to a veterinary inspection during the 24 hours prior to slaughter and showed no signs of disease. EU import rules also require that all bovine meat imported from Brazil be deboned and matured, a process which produces an acid change which inactivates any foot and mouth disease virus present.

All consignments of meat must enter the EU at designated border inspection posts, where they are subject to veterinary inspections. All consignments are subject to documentary and identity checks and at least 20% of consignments are subject to physical checks.

The importation of pork from Brazil is not permitted.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reason is for the time taken to publish the response to her Department's consultation on a badger control policy; and when she expects to publish the response. [43506]

Mr Paice: We received a large number of responses to our consultation, which we are considering carefully. This is a difficult and sensitive issue and we need to get it right. We will announce our decision as part of a comprehensive and balanced TB Eradication Programme for England as soon as possible.

Dairy Products

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the quantity of *(a)* milk and *(b)* other dairy produce Government bodies purchased in the last 12 months for which figures are available; by whom such produce is supplied; what the farms of origin are; and what average price was paid per litre of milk in that period; [44682]

(2) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* cost of production for dairy farmers supplying (i) cheese and (ii) milk to the public sector and *(b)* the price that they received in the latest period for which figures are available. [44684]

Mr Paice: No estimate has been made of the quantity of milk or other dairy produce purchased by all Government bodies.

However, DEFRA has previously established the quantity of milk and other dairy produce purchased from January 2010 to January 2011 by its Nobel House headquarters.

This purchased 41,600 pints of milk (23,640 litres) in this period. In addition, it purchased 1,040 kg of yoghurt, 1,200 kg of cheese and 205 kg of butter. These products are supplied by Brakes Chilled. The milk is sourced from Yew Tree House Farm in Lancashire. The average price paid per litre of milk is commercially confidential.

It is not possible, to establish what amounts of milk individual farm businesses supply to public sector organisations and we are therefore similarly unable to make specific estimates of the costs of production or the prices received for dairy farmers supplying the public sector.

However, DEFRA has estimated the following costs[1] of milk production for 2009-10 using data from the Farm Business Survey in England[2]. These estimates are representative of the vast majority of milk produced in England and will include a small proportion of organic production. The average cost of production was around 22.5 pence per litre.

Cost of production in pence per litre	*Proportion of milk produced under these costs in 2009-10 (percentage)*
Less than 20ppl	22
20ppl to less than 22.5ppl	25
22.5ppl to less than 25ppl	27
More than 25ppl	26

Source:
Farm Business Survey, England 2009-10

DEFRA collects statistical data every month on the price received by dairy farmers. The latest available figure is the January 2011 average milk price, which stood at 25.72ppl, 4.26% higher than January 2010. The average milk price for 2010 was 24.66ppl.

[1] The costs included in this analysis cover fixed and variable costs and imputed charges for unpaid labour and an imputed rent on owned land. Some of the costs are allocated to the dairy enterprise by arithmetic estimation rather than directly from the farm's accounts.

[2] The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued to public bodies in England on purchasing milk produced in the UK; and how much of the milk procured for the public sector is labelled with the *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* name of the supplying farm. [44683]

Mr Paice: Information on the quantity of milk purchased by Government bodies, the suppliers and the name of the supplying farm is not collated centrally.

However, we are shortly to publish Government Buying Standards for food which will be mandatory for central Government and promoted to the wider public sector. Departments have been advised that they should be able to report, by June this year, baseline data for compliance with these standards.

Among the requirements of the Government Buying Standards are that all food procured by Government should, subject to no overall increase in costs, meet British or equivalent standards of production; and that in line with industry principles on country of origin labelling, caterers should be able to indicate the origin of the meat, meat products and dairy products either on the menu or accompanying literature, or at least when the information is requested by the consumer.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40285]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 853W.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assets her Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45090]

Richard Benyon: None.

Exmoor National Park

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of visitors to Exmoor National Park in each of the last five years. [44244]

Richard Benyon: No specific estimate has been made for each of the last five years. The estimated annual number of visitor days spent in the Exmoor National Park lies somewhere between 1.4 million and 2 million.

Fisheries: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she has had with representatives of the Northern Ireland fishing industry since her appointment. [44562]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I met representatives of both the Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (ANIFPO) and the Northern Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (NIFPO), during the negotiations surrounding the setting of fishing opportunities for 2011, at the end of last year.

This included a visit to Belfast in late October, for a meeting hosted by Michelle Gildernew MP MLA, Northern Ireland's Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, at which a number of local fishermen were also present. I also regularly meet with senior members of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO), including one who specifically represents Northern Irish fishing interests.

Forestry Commission: Manpower

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received from the devolved administrations on planned changes in staffing at the Forestry Commission. [43729]

Mr Paice: It is for the Forestry Commission to decide where its staff should be based after the conclusion of its consultation with staff and the Trade Unions.

The Scottish Executive wrote to the Secretary of State on this issue in February.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the implications for her Department's budget of planned changes in staffing at the Forestry Commission. [43823]

Mr Paice: There have been no such discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Forestry Commission: Redundancy

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she intends to proceed with the proposed redundancies of Forestry Commission staff based in Edinburgh. [44111]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission is currently consulting staff on new organisational structures in response to the 2010 spending review settlement, it will be for the Forestry Commission to decide where its staff should be based after the conclusion of this consultation with staff and the trade unions.

Public Forest Estate

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations her Department consulted in developing its policy on the sale of the forest estate in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of the Compact between Government and civil society organisations; what feedback her Department has given to the consultees in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of the Compact; and what assessment she has made of the effect of that policy on local efforts to inspire and encourage social action and to empower communities in accordance with paragraph 2.2 of the Compact. [44444]

Mr Paice: The consultation on the future of the public forest estate has ended, as announced by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), on 17 February. Over 300 organisations, plus all local authorities and over 7,000 private individuals were included in the formal consultation; a list is available on DEFRA's website.

All responses received prior to cancellation of the consultation will be analysed and considered by the Independent Panel on Forestry. This panel is being established to advise on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England, on the role of the Forestry Commission, and on the role of the public forest estate. It will report its findings in the autumn.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of forest land the Forestry Commission owns in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Mid Sussex constituency; and what the location is of each such landholding. [44690]

Mr Paice: The public forest estate is owned by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section (3)1 of the Forestry Act 1967.

The following table lists the woodland in West Sussex that forms part of the public forest estate. None of this is within Mid Sussex constituency.

Grid reference	*Wood name*	*Area (hectares)*
SU798119	Marden	394
SU758173	West Harting Down	318
TQ214310	St. Leonard's Forest	244
SU855298	Rogate	129
SU990113	Houghton	233
SU949115	Eartham	260
SU920122	Selhurst	211
SU897146	Charlton	997
SU855298	Rogate	202
TQ276336	Tilgate Forest	149

Food Labelling

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the regulatory framework governing country of origin labelling. [44694]

Mr Paice: The current EU regulatory framework governing country of origin labelling needs to be improved. This is why we are pressing for clearer origin labelling in negotiations on the new EU Food Information Regulation. We have been successful in extending mandatory origin labelling to all fresh meat with the possibility, subject to a review, of extending origin labelling to other foods. Negotiations are continuing and it is not expected that the regulation will be adopted and published until early 2012.

In the meantime, the Government welcome the voluntary origin information principles for meat and dairy products developed by industry, which will help ensure that consumers can have confidence about the origin claims being made.

National Parks: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has given in grants to the national parks in 2010-11; how much she has allocated for funding to the national parks in 2010-11 as a result of the comprehensive spending review; and if she will make a statement. [45183]

Richard Benyon: The grants given to each national park authority in 2010-11 and the grants allocated for 2011-12 are set out in the following table.

		£
National Park	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Broads	4,229,502	4,002,149
Dartmoor	4,739,642	4,484,867
Exmoor	3,978,580	3,764,715
Lake District[1]	7,171,279	6,549,233
New Forest[2]	4,978,096	3,811,570
Northumberland	3,311,334	3,133,337
North York Moors	5,428,266	5,136,475
Peak District	8,298,814	7,852,720
South Downs[3]	8,540,000	11,373,133
Yorkshire Dales	5,398,563	5,108,369
Total	56,074,076	55,216,567

[1] Lake District grant for 2010-11 includes £0.25 million funding for repairs to flood damaged rights of way network.

[2] New Forest grant for 2010-11 includes £0.75 million funding for new offices.

[3] South Downs grant for 2010-11 includes £1.25 million funding for new offices and for 2011-12 includes DCLG transfer of £4.475 million for planning responsibilities.

Natural England: Research

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Natural England's approach to and processes for quality assurance of evidence and advice; and if she will make a statement; [42161]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Natural England's quality assurance process for the evidence and advice produced by it to her Department; and if she will make a statement. [42163]

Richard Benyon: Non-departmental public bodies, such as Natural England, operate with a degree of independence according to their own particular governance arrangements and are accountable for their own processes, conduct and decisions. Natural England's quality assurance of its evidence and advice is provided primarily by its specialist staff, often working in partnership with external experts or bodies. Overview of the quality of the evidence, and the way that it is used, is provided by Natural England's Executive Director of Science and Evidence, supported by an external Scientific Advisory Committee.

DEFRA's chief scientific adviser (CSA), Professor Bob Watson, provides an independent challenge to the evidence underpinning policy decisions. It is part of his role to assure himself that policy is informed by high-quality, robust evidence. Where specific issues are brought to the CSA's attention, or where evidence and advice is particularly complex or uncertain, the CSA will assess and give advice on them, to Ministers or senior policy colleagues.

Professor Watson is commissioning an independent review of evidence and advice provided by Natural England, and its use by DEFRA, in relation to a case study of marine candidate/possible special areas of conservation. Quality assurance processes will also be considered as part of the review.

New Forest: Hunting

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 311-2W, on

New Forest, what her policy is on whether drag hunting in the New Forest constitutes a public benefit. [44469]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Drag hunting in the New Forest enjoys significant local support and participation as well as contributing to economic activity and employment in related enterprises. In this context, it could be seen as being a public benefit. The Forestry Panel will advise the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on all aspects of public benefits when it reports later this year.

Rural Payments Agency: Correspondence

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Rural Payments Agency has targets in place for the time taken to respond to correspondence. [44251]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency has a published target to reply to correspondence within 15 working days of its receipt.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons claimants are not able to communicate with the Rural Payments Agency by telephone. [44262]

Mr Paice: Claimants are able to communicate with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) by telephone.

The agency provides a number of telephone numbers which its customers may use to contact it. These numbers are published on its website and in scheme guidance. The agency includes contact number details on letters sent to individual customers.

The RPA also provides a number of help lines covering specific areas of its work, details of which are also published on its website.

Sewers

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the proportion of sewers that are properly maintained. [44461]

Richard Benyon: Water and sewerage companies have a statutory duty to cleanse and maintain approximately 323,000 km of public sewers in England and Wales which comprise the public sewerage system.

This equates to less than 50% of the estimated overall length of sewers and drains in England and Wales, the remainder of which are subject to whatever maintenance arrangements their respective owners consider appropriate. No data exist on the state of repair of the private sewerage network.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps she has taken to reduce the number of unadopted sewers. [44462]

Richard Benyon: The Government have consulted on draft regulations to implement the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains (linked to the public sewerage system) into the ownership of the water and sewerage companies in England. The regulations are currently being considered in accordance with the Government's principles for better regulation.

Shale Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings have taken place at her Department at *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official level to review Environment Agency preparedness for on-shore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane using hydraulic fracturing. [37894]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials had informal discussions in January with the Environment Agency on preparedness for on-shore drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane using hydraulic fracturing.

All onshore oil and gas projects, including shale gas exploration and development, are subject to appropriate environmental controls, including scrutiny by the Environment Agency. They require local planning permission before drilling activities can start.

DEFRA Ministers have not held meetings to review Environment Agency preparedness on the matter.

Supermarkets: Refrigerators

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to encourage supermarkets to increase the number of refrigerated display cabinets that they remanufacture. [44570]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is not proposing to introduce any specific measures to increase the number of refrigerated display cabinets that supermarkets remanufacture.

However, the UK implementation of the EC Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive encourages the preparation for reuse of these cabinets, and WEEE more widely, as reuse counts towards the achievement of the European Commission's collection and recovery targets. The UK Government are also promoting the preparing for reuse of WEEE by providing financial and other support for the development of a Publicly Available Specification. This provides a process management specification for the reuse of used, and waste, electrical and electronic equipment.

Timber: EU Action

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to make an announcement on proposals for implementation of the EU Timber Regulation. [44971]

Mr Paice: We will discuss and agree the detailed implementing regulations to prevent the first placing of illegally logged timber on the EU market with other member states and the European Commission over the next 18 months. Once agreed, the necessary secondary legislation will be put in place to implement the regulation in the UK. Further details, including our plans for public consultation, will be announced in due course. Under its provisions, the EU timber regulation must be implemented by 3 March 2013.

Timber: Imports

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of imports of illegally-logged timber. [43285]

Mr Paice: We will put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU Timber Regulation in the United Kingdom. The forthcoming Due Diligence Regulations prohibit the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market, restricting its purchase, possession and sale down the supply chain. This will be complemented by the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Regulation, which requires timber imports from countries which have signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU to carry a licence to prove legality. These new legislative measures underline our commitment to eliminate illegal timber from the UK market.

Veterinary Services: Public Expenditure

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many veterinary surgeons of each grade her Department expects to directly employ in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [44805]

Mr Paice: Veterinary surgeons are currently employed in DEFRA and also the Animal Health Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

DEFRA and its agencies are currently considering how to implement its spending review settlement. To live within this smaller budget we know that we will have to reduce the number of staff across our network. However, at this stage, it is not possible to predict how many veterinary surgeons will be directly employed by the Department and its agencies.

Waste Management

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the gasification process for waste with the provisions of European directives on the incineration of waste. [43997]

Richard Benyon: Thermal treatment includes both incineration/combustion and other treatments, such as gasification and pyrolysis. However, if the activity involves only thermal treatment in this broader sense (as distinct from incineration/combustion), then it will be subject to the Waste Incineration Directive only 'insofar as the substances resulting from the treatment are subsequently incinerated'. This ensures that the Waste Incineration Directive covers processes such as pyrolysis and gasification, unless their purpose is the manufacture of products with no resulting release of combustion gases.

Therefore, if a gasification/pyrolysis plant produces a number of products, one or more of which are subsequently burnt, then the Waste Incineration Directive applies to the whole plant. In cases where the products are burnt away from the gasification/pyrolysis plant (remote units), the Waste Incineration Directive will apply both to the plants initially producing, as well as subsequently using, these products.

Water Charges

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the effects of water metering tariffs and charging policies on levels of household income in each income decile of the population. [44153]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 68W.

Water Supply: Mutual Societies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will encourage mutual forms of ownership in the running of water and sewerage supplies; and if she will make a statement. [44988]

Richard Benyon: Maintaining a regulatory system that affords water companies access to appropriate finance at affordable prices is a key priority for the Government. Any water company making such a proposal would have to satisfy Ofwat that it will be able to continue to access the finance it needs to provide water and sewerage services in its appointed area.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Christianity

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the detention and sentencing of Shoaib Said Assadullah. [45237]

Alistair Burt: We are working closely with international partners to monitor developments and raise issues on cases concerning the freedom of religion with the Afghan Government.

We continue to remind the Afghan Government of their duty to abide by their national and international commitments on freedom of religion and belief. During his visit to Afghanistan in January, the UK Attorney-General raised the issue of freedom of religion with the Afghan Attorney-General.

Burma: Asylum

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Government of India on the provision of assistance to Rohingya refugees recently arrived in the *(a)* Aceh and *(b)* Andaman and Nicobar Islands. [44924]

Alistair Burt: We are deeply concerned over the recent flow of Rohingya people who have fled Burma to escape human rights abuses. At the end of February 2011, following the arrival of refugees in Aceh, our embassy in Jakarta met Indonesian authorities and the International Organisation for Migration where we discussed the process of registering the refugees with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

We have not discussed the issue of Rohingya refugees with the Government of India bilaterally but we support the European Commission and UN programmes for Rohingya refugees through the UK's core funding to the EU and the UN.

Croatia: EU Enlargement

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress on the accession of Croatia to the EU. [44680]

Mr Lidington: Croatia's accession process was assessed in the European Commission's annual progress report published in November 2010, and scrutinised by member states at the EU General Affairs Council in December 2010. The Council Conclusions stated,

> "The Council welcomes Croatia's good overall progress towards meeting the membership criteria. Accession negotiations have reached their final stage and preparations for the drafting of the Accession Treaty have progressed steadily. Conclusion of the negotiations is within reach."

We fully endorse this assessment.

We work closely with other EU member states and with the European Commission to encourage and support progress in Croatia's accession process. Croatia has now opened all of the substantive chapters, of which it has closed 28. But Croatia still has work to do, particularly on judicial reform, public administration reform, tackling corruption and organised crime. Full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is a requirement for the closure of negotiations.

The Commission published an interim report on Croatia's progress on chapter 23 (judiciary and fundamental rights) on 2 March 2011. The Government welcome the report and Croatia's continued engagement on the accession process. The report will be discussed by EU member states over the coming weeks.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45069]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supports the Government's prompt payment initiative and makes every effort to pay supplier invoices within five working days.

The FCO paid 93% and 90.8% of supplier invoices within 10-days of receipt in January 2011 and February 2011 respectively.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45033]

Alistair Burt: The proportion of the seafood procured for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK by its contracted supplier is as follows:

(i) No products are procured that are on the Marine Conservation Society (MSC)'s 'Fish to Avoid List'.

(ii) 40% of products are on the MCS's list of fish to eat of which 30% is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

The above data relate to both 2010 and 2011 to date.

Data for the agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which the FCO is responsible and for overseas posts are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons persons not employed by Government departments or agencies are issued with passes entitling them to enter his Department's premises. [43206]

Alistair Burt: Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to security checks.

European Convention on Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has plans to reform the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in its interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights. [44152]

Mr Lidington: The European Court of Human Rights not the European Court of Justice is responsible for ensuring compliance with obligations undertaken by the Contracting Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights and has jurisdiction on the interpretation and application of the Convention.

Fundamental rights are guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the member states also constitute general principles of EU law.

The Treaty of Lisbon provided for the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (under Article 6(2) Treaty on European Union) and negotiations for the EU's accession are currently ongoing. However, the Government will need to ensure accession will not affect the competences of the Union or the powers of its institutions and will not affect the situation of the EU member states in relation to the Convention, as agreed in Protocol 8 A2 to the Treaty on European Union.

European Parliament

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 219W, on the

European Parliament: location, with which members of the *(a)* European Parliament, *(b)* European Commission and *(c)* Council of Ministers he has discussed the location of the European Parliament; and what was discussed at each meeting. [44665]

Mr Lidington: The Government are committed to reducing inefficient and wasteful spending by the EU and in the coalition agreement have committed to pressing for the European Parliament to have only one seat, in Brussels. I have met with many people with an interest in this issue including ministerial counterparts in other EU member states, European Commissioners and Members of the European Parliament.

Israel: Business Initiatives

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 498W, on Israel: business initiatives, what funding his Department is providing to support joint business initiatives between Israeli citizens resident in Israel and Palestinian citizens resident in the West Bank. [45248]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

Italy: British Nationals Abroad

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the operation legislation in Italy on the legal rights of foreign workers. [44769]

Mr Lidington: I have had reports from our embassy in Rome and Professor David Petrie, the chair of the Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy (ALLSI), concerning Article 26 of 'Law 240 of 30 December 2010' enforced on 29 January. Our embassy is following-up with the Italian Government to discuss the implications of the law on the Lettori.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the rights of UK citizens teaching in universities in Italy. [44770]

Mr Lidington: UK officials in Rome met Professor David Petrie, Chair of the Association of Foreign Lecturers in Italy (ALLSI), on 28 February 2011. We are arranging a roundtable for members of ALLSI and the Italian Government. I will also be writing to the European Commissioner for Employment, Laszlo Andor, to bring this issue to his attention.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals who used flights from Libya chartered by his Department have *(a)* paid and *(b)* not paid for the flight. [43828]

Alistair Burt: In an evacuation, the Government will pay for transport out of the affected country if there are no commercial means available. All British nationals who were evacuated from Libya on flights chartered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office did so without charge.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens resident in Libya have contacted his Department in the last three weeks. [43889]

Alistair Burt: Over 750 British nationals have contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last three weeks.

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are being taken by the British Embassy in Tripoli to assist UK nationals on the Libyan/Algerian border. [44293]

Alistair Burt: We continue to provide full consular support to British nationals in Algeria. Our embassy in Tripoli suspended operations on 26 February 2011 due to security concerns. Since then our representation has been undertaken by the Turkish embassy in Tripoli. We have concentrated efforts on the Libyan borders with Egypt and Tunisia but our embassy in Algiers continues to provide consular support for British nationals requiring assistance in Algeria.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals have been evacuated from Tripoli through *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* chartered flights arranged by his Department since 15 February 2011. [44410]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) organised six flights which departed Tripoli. Around 390 British nationals were evacuated on these flights. It is likely that British nationals left on scheduled flights without formal notification to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during this period. We assisted British nationals who had requested help to leave Libya by facilitating a range of exit routes including arranging seats for British nationals on flights organised by other countries.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse has been of chartering aircraft to evacuate UK nationals from Tripoli since 21 February 2011. [44411]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) organised six flights which departed Tripoli. The provisional total cost of the flights chartered by the FCO departing from Tripoli is approximately £740,000 but the final total will not be confirmed until we receive final invoices from the airlines.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many scheduled flights with which airlines his Department booked seats for the evacuation of UK nationals from Tripoli in February 2011. [44412]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s evacuation of British nationals from Tripoli was primarily conducted through chartering civilian and military flights. It is likely that British nationals left on scheduled flights without formal notification to the FCO. We assisted British nationals who had requested help to leave Libya by facilitating a range of exit routes including arranging seats for British nationals on flights organised by other countries.

Libya: Official Visits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit Libya. [44891]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I do not currently have any plans to visit Libya.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment on the impact of recent events in Libya on the Israeli and Palestinian peace process; and if he will make a statement. [44888]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), said on 8 March 2011, the peace process must not become a casualty of uncertainty in the region. Instead, efforts must be redoubled to move the peace process forward and the British Government believes that the parties must recommit themselves to negotiations as soon as possible, to do so on the basis of clear principles with international support, and to strive for a breakthrough this year.

We want to see a return to negotiations, as soon as possible, on the basis of clear parameters. Clear parameters are important for negotiations to make progress. We have set out our views with France and Germany on what those parameters should be, covering borders, security, Jerusalem and the refugee question. We will continue to work with the US and other key partners to secure progress.

Nigeria: Corruption

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the government of Nigeria on Diepreye Alamieyeseigha. [45143]

Mr Bellingham: Neither the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), nor I have had any discussions with the Government of Nigeria on Diepreye Alamieyeseigha.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist Nigeria in tackling internal corruption. [45144]

Mr Bellingham: Corruption is one of the biggest obstacles to Nigeria achieving its full potential. During my recent visit to Nigeria, I raised the issue with a range of interlocutors. I welcomed efforts by federal and state Governments to address corruption; highlighting that tackling corruption is crucial to Nigeria's political and economic development and creating an enabling business environment. But I also stressed that a lot of work remains to be completed to further tackle corruption.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, along with other Government Departments, including the Department for International Development (DFID), are assisting Governments at both levels, as well as with civil society and the private sector on transparency in public finances and good governance. DFID has given technical support to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Nigeria's main anti-corruption agency.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the effect on national reconciliation in Sri Lanka of the creation of high security zones in the north and east of that country. [45111]

Alistair Burt: During my visit to Sri Lanka last month I talked to resettled communities about their efforts to recover from the war and rebuild their lives. I am aware that high security zones displace people from their home area and may therefore make it harder for people to return to their normal lives.

We understand that the Sri Lankan Government intend to reduce the number and size of high security zones and we welcome the relaxation of some of these areas in Jaffna over the past months. Our Department for International Development is contributing a further £3 million grant for demining and clearance of unexploded ordinance to ensure the return of residents to these areas.

Tunisia: British Nationals Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department has given to British nationals in *(a)* Tunisia and *(b)* Egypt since 21 February 2011. [43831]

Alistair Burt: We have provided a wide range of consular support to British nationals in both Tunisia and Egypt during this period, including assisting their departure from those countries.

Turkey: EU Enlargement

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress on the accession of Turkey to the EU. [44679]

Mr Lidington: Turkey's accession process was assessed in the European Commission's annual progress report published in November 2010, and scrutinised by member states at the EU General Affairs Council in December 2010. The Council Conclusions stated,

> "The Council welcomes Turkey's continued commitment to the negotiation process and the political reform agenda. The constitutional reform package is an important step in the right direction as it addresses a number of priorities of the Accession Partnership in the area of judiciary, fundamental rights and public administration. Implementation in line with European standards will be key."

We fully endorse this assessment.

We work closely with other EU member states and with the European Commission to encourage and support progress in Turkey's accession process. Turkey has now opened 13 out of 35 accession chapters, of which it has closed one. Turkey is currently working on the reforms necessary to open chapter 8—competition policy. We are encouraging Turkey to accelerate domestic reforms in line with the EU acquis. We support Turkey's engagement in support of the Cyprus settlement process and call for Turkey to implement the Additional Ankara Protocol.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments involving people under the age of 18 years there were in the *(a)* East of England Strategic Health Authority area and *(b)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 2007-08. [45147]

Anne Milton: An estimate of the number of alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospital via accident and emergency that are wholly attributable to alcohol and those that are wholly or partially attributable to alcohol for East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) for people aged under 18 for the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 is given in the following table.

	2009-10		*2008-09*		*2007-08*	
	Estimated admissions wholly attributable to alcohol	*Estimated admissions partially or wholly attributable to alcohol*	*Estimated admissions wholly attributable to alcohol*	*Estimated admissions partially or wholly attributable to alcohol*	*Estimated admissions wholly attributable to alcohol*	*Estimated admissions partially or wholly attributable to alcohol*
NHS East of England	384	730	390	699	535	866
Suffolk PCT	52	91	52	83	55	92

Notes:

1. Estimate of alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at:

www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf

The application of the NWPHO methodology was updated in summer 2010 and is now available directly from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Information about episodes estimated to be alcohol-related may be slightly different from previously published data.

2. Accident and Emergency

Admission method Codes 21 and 28 were used:

21: Emergency via A&E, including the casualty department of the provider;

28: Emergency: Other means including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another healthcare provider.

3. SHA/PCT of residence

The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

4. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in national health service practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

5. Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Epilepsy: Death

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 458-9W on epilepsy, what information his Department holds on World Health Organisation age-standardised death rates for epilepsy per 100,000 for each of the states in the EU-15. [44768]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold information on age-standardised death rates for epilepsy for each of the states in the EU-15.

General Practitioners

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for GP consortia he has received to date from organisations in *(a)* Wolverhampton, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England; and what criteria he plans to use to assess such proposals. [44667]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The

Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority (SHA). There are no pathfinder consortia in Wolverhampton and 16 in the West Midlands. In England, there are 177 pathfinders in total.

SHAs have been responsible for managing the selection process for pathfinders. Although some SHAs have applied certain additional criteria, the expectation has been that all applications to join the programme will be accepted unless they are unable to demonstrate: evidence of strong GP leadership and support; evidence of local authority support; or an ability to deliver on local Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programmes.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the funding of GP consortia which cross existing primary care trust boundaries. [44700]

Mr Simon Burns: From 2013-14, the NHS Commissioning Board will take over responsibility for commissioning guidelines and the allocation of resources from the Department. It will be for the board to decide how best to allocate resources in a way that supports the principle of securing equivalent access to national health service services relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability.

During the transition to the board, the Secretary of State has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), an independent committee comprising general practitioners (GPs), academics and NHS managers, to continue to oversee the formulae for the distribution of NHS resources. ACRA's work programme will include consideration of the allocation of funds to GP consortia. This work programme does not pre-empt any decisions to be made by the NHS Commissioning Board.

Further detail on the allocations and processes will be announced in due course.

Genito-Urinary Medicine

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to consult on the draft of his Department's forthcoming sexual health strategy. [44584]

Anne Milton: We intend to work closely with a wide range of stakeholders and experts in the field to develop our new sexual health strategy.

Health Services: East of England

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of running and administering the *(a)* East of England Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) 2010-11. [44976]

Mr Simon Burns: Administrative and clerical staff costs for East of England Strategic Health Authority and Suffolk Primary Care Trust for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are shown in the following table.

Figures for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Administrative and clerical staff costs of East of England Strategic Health Authority and Suffolk Primary Care Trust

			£000
Organisation	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
NHS East of England	1,554	1,698	2,605
Suffolk Primary Care Trust	5,500	6,406	7,411

Source:
Financial returns of East of England Strategic Health Authority and Suffolk Primary Care Trust

Health Services: North West

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the proposed restructuring of NHS commissioning in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester. [44832]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated costs of the proposed restructuring of national health service commissioning were published in the impact assessment alongside the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

The Department has not estimated a regional breakdown of these figures, as these will depend on local decisions.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Health Services: North Yorkshire

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the review of health services in North Yorkshire; [44698]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure GP consortia are involved in the review of health services in North Yorkshire. [44699]

Mr Simon Burns: The review of health services in North Yorkshire has been commissioned by NHS Yorkshire and the Humber on behalf of the local health economy. As such, no estimate of the cost to the public purse of this review has been made by the Department. The Department expects NHS Yorkshire and the Humber to ensure general practitioner consortia are fully engaged in this review.

Home Care Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what penalties are applied to local authorities for failing to follow the required procedures for tendering domiciliary care contracts; [44585]

(2) what criteria apply to the award of domiciliary care contracts by local authorities under the EU Directive on public procurement; [44586]

(3) what procedure is in place for advertising of domiciliary care contracts by local authorities under the EU public procurement directive; and where such advertisements must be placed; [44587]

(4) what procedure is in place in respect of tendering domiciliary care contracts under the EU public procurement Directive; [44588]

(5) what arrangements are in place for the tendering of domiciliary care contracts in *(a)* County Durham, *(b)* Northumbria, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* the North East. [44589]

Paul Burstow: It is for individual local authorities to follow European Union procurement guidance for the tendering of domiciliary care contracts. Domiciliary Care is classed as a Part B service of the Procurement Directive. The detailed award criteria set out in that guidance for tendering for these services do not apply to Part B services. However local authorities are expected to follow procedures which provide an outcome to their purchasing requirements that delivers value for money.

Authorities are required to ensure that any specifications set out in the tender documents are not discriminatory and do not point to particular products. Authorities should not use standards which are inconsistent with wider international standards.

Hospitals: Manpower

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on weekend staffing levels in hospitals; and what response he has made to such representations. [44759]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not record separately details of correspondence on weekend staffing levels. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of primary care trusts in making patients aware of their entitlement to be treated within 18 weeks or to access private treatment; and if he will make a statement. [44776]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information centrally on the effectiveness of primary care trusts (PCTs) in making patients aware of their entitlement to be treated within 18 weeks or for the national health service to take all reasonable steps to offer a range of alternative providers if this is not possible.

The right to access services within maximum waiting times remains in the NHS constitution as set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12. Commissioners should ensure that performance does not deteriorate and where possible, improves during 2011-12.

The 'Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities (Waiting Times) Directions 2010' and the accompanying guidance 'Implementation of the right to access services in the maximum waiting times: guidance to strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and providers' sets out that each PCT must establish a service for the purpose of providing advice and assistance to patients referred for consultant-led assessment or treatment; publish the name and contact details for that service; and take reasonable steps to communicate the name and contact details of that service to any relevant persons for which it is responsible.

Copies of both documents have already have been placed in the Library.

The directions are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_113648.pdf

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of a vaccination for human papilloma virus 6 and 11 on the incidence of false positive smear tests. [44782]

Anne Milton: In 2010, the Department commissioned the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to conduct a cost-effectiveness study on the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination. This study is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by the HPV vaccines against cancer and non-cancer diseases, including genital warts. This study includes data from two recently published papers that report on the numbers of borderline and mild smears that contained either HPV6 or HPV11[1], and the economic benefit of reducing such smears by eliminating HPV6 and HPV11[2]. The cost-effectiveness study for the HPV vaccine, which has not yet been published by the HPA, will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV immunisation programme that is taking place in 2011.

[1] Howell-Jones R, Bailey A, Beddows S et al. (2010) Multi-site study of HPV type-specific prevalence in women with cervical cancer, intraepithelial neoplasia and normal cytology, in England. *Br J Cancer* 103(2): 209-16:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez/20628396

[2] Chapman R, Soldan K and Jit M (2011) Modelling borderline and mild dysplasia associated with HPV6 and 11 infection. *Vaccine*:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez/21338682

Leeds General Infirmary: Children

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the provision of children's services at the Leeds General Infirmary. [44702]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental records show that, since January 2011, it has received 10 representations about the provision of children's services at the Leeds General Infirmary (LGI), comprising of one parliamentary question and nine pieces of correspondence.

All of the representations received relate to the paediatric cardiac unit at the LGI. My hon. Friend may also wish to note that, on 15 February 2011, the right hon. Member for Leeds Central (Hilary Benn) tabled an early-day motion in support of the Children's Heart Unit at the LGI, which has received support from numerous local hon. Members. On 3 March 2011, my hon. Friend the Member for Pudsey (Stuart Andrew) tabled an end of day Adjournment debate about children's heart surgery services in Leeds, which was attended by my hon. Friend.

NHS: Procurement

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of using block contracts in the NHS on the Any Willing Provider model of commissioning. [44794]

Paul Burstow: Our aim is to create a 'presumption' that all patients will have choice and control over their care and treatment, and choice of any willing provider wherever appropriate.

The Department has consulted on the development of patient choice in the national health service, including its approach to extending patient choice of 'any willing provider'. The consultation closed on 14 January 2011. We are currently considering the responses to this consultation and we plan to publish the results and associated guidance in the spring. An impact assessment will be published alongside the guidance.

Any Willing Provider (AWP) allows patients to choose, where appropriate, from a range of providers who are qualified to provide safe, high quality care and treatment—and select the one that best meets their needs.

It should be for patients, with the advice of their doctor, to choose where they receive treatment. For example, some patients may prefer to be treated in the community; others may prefer a more traditional setting.

Choice of provider is an important part of choosing a service tailored to an individual's needs. Strict national standards on quality and patient safety must be adhered to. Choice of AWP allows innovative and responsive services to grow, benefiting patients and providers alike.

Under AWP, commissioners know that a range of safe, good quality and affordable providers are available to which they can refer their patients without the cost and effort of competitive tendering.

The "Greater Choice and Control" consultation proposed that patient choice of 'any willing provider' would be extended to most NHS services by 2013-14, starting with some community (and possibly some mental health) services during 2011.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS block contracts were awarded to independent providers *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years; [44795]

(2) what the monetary value was of block contracts awarded by the NHS *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years; [44797]

(3) how many NHS commissioned block contracts were awarded *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years; [44798]

(4) what proportion of NHS commissioned services were delivered through block contracts *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in each of the last five years; [44799]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of using block contracts in NHS commissioning on the diversity of providers of health services. [44800]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department is aware that the use of block contracts can, in some circumstances, be a barrier to entry by new providers and restrict diversity. Although it has not made a formal assessment of their impact, it has for some years been encouraging commissioners to move away from simple block contracts.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of block contracts were awarded by the NHS to independent providers of *(a)* mental health services and *(b)* secure services for mentally ill offenders in each of the last five years. [44796]

Paul Burstow: The information is not centrally held.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made on the value for money of block contracts in NHS commissioning; and if he will make a statement. [44801]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. Primary care trusts have responsibility for ensuring the value for money of the services they commission, including services commissioned through block contracts.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken in response to the recommendations of the Co-operation and Competition Panel in its report of 16 December 2010 on the commissioning and procurement of secure mental health services by the North West Specialised Commissioning Group. [44810]

Paul Burstow: We are considering the recommendations of the panel and we will respond to them very shortly.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to abolish prescription charges in England. [44820]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no current plans to abolish prescription charges.

However, we are continuing to look at options for reforming the current prescription charging arrangements. In particular, we are examining the implications of the introduction of universal credit in relation to those current benefits that entitle the recipient of that benefit to free prescriptions. We are also looking at the implications of state pension age changes. We will, however, explore options for creating a fairer system of prescription charges and exemptions, taking into account the financial context. We will make announcements about how these changes will be implemented in due course.

Primary Care Trusts: Debts

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future status of primary care trust debt accrued after 1 April 2011. [44701]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts and clusters must ensure that through planning in 2011-12 and 2012-13, all existing legacy issues are dealt with. During this period we expect developing general practitioner consortia to work closely with primary care trusts to ensure that financial control and balance is maintained to prevent primary care trust deficits in those years.

The detailed financial regime for the new health system is still being developed and part of that development will include the treatment of existing liabilities within the Statement of Financial Position of Primary Care Trusts for the future.

Strokes: Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake a consultation on stroke care prior to taking any decision on where the functions currently undertaken by stroke networks will be carried out after 2011-12. [44642]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently no plans to undertake a consultation on stroke care. In the reformed national health service as set out in the White Paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS' and the Health Bill currently subject to the scrutiny of Parliament, the arrangements for providing commissioning support within the NHS, including questions relating to the functions of networks for stroke, as for other services, will be matters for the NHS Commissioning Board and not for the Secretary of State.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans to make functional electrical stimulation for stroke victims available on the NHS. [44758]

Mr Simon Burns: Functional electrical stimulation can be provided on the national health service. It is for primary care trusts locally to decide which services will be commissioned to meet the needs of local populations.

Surgery: Private Sector

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations funded by the NHS have been performed in private hospitals in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [44781]

Mr Simon Burns: Operations funded by the national health service and performed in private hospitals can currently be contracted for through a number of routes. In the main, providers may be contracted via the Extended Choice Network. Data on the number of operations funded by each primary care trust (PCT) are shown in the following table.

Providers may otherwise be contracted via independent sector treatment centre contracts agreed under the previous government, local agreements with PCTs or subcontracts between NHS trusts or foundation trusts and private providers. As these contracts are monitored and managed by local commissioners, the information is not held centrally.

NHS extended choice network data 2007-10: Procedures

		Total		
PCT referrer code	*PCT*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
5N1	Leeds PCT	3,152	5,149	7,529
5P1	South East Essex PCT	1,761	2,831	2,646
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,039	1,384	1,276
5PC.	Leicester City PCT	1,341	1,559	1,636
5NX	Hull PCT	1,136	1,962	2,553
5P9	West Kent PCT	1,352	3,623	5,884
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	873	1,793	4,244
TAN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,079	1,443	1,644
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,146	1,754	3,358
5PQ	Norfolk PCT.	720	664	1,548
5L3	Medway PCT	768	1,010	2,014
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	710	1,514	1,575
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	874	2,005	2,265
5NA	Redbridge PCT	899	1,523	1,595
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	732	1,054	2,342
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	477	661	1,106
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	756	2,102	3,375
5QQ	Devon PCT	741	1,712	1,289
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,071	2,558	2,936
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	715	461	397
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	345	363	512
5N4	Sheffield PCT	763	2,200	2,605
5PY	South West Essex PCT	671	1,688	2,191
5A9	Barnet PCT	268	315	428
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	311	384	444
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	697	1,814	391
5P6	West Sussex PCT	546	1,584	2,408
5N7	Derby City PCT	268	240	419
5PW	North East Essex PCT	493	2,392	2,740
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	362	847	1,105
5A4	Havering PCT	258	704	1,443
5JE	Barnsley PCT	126	198	1,592
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	127	205	658
5PE	Dudley PCT	273	810	1,576
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	220	510	949
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	219	1,371	4,723
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	599	2,733	3,843
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	352	1,034	1,028
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	61	41	611
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	236	338	689
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	123	1,469	1,974
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	111	135	169
5QC	Hampshire PCT	159	513	2,142

NHS extended choice network data 2007-10: Procedures

PCT referrer code	PCT		Total	
		2008	2009	2010
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	117	535	225
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	225	545	1,225
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	55	2	36
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	78	70	72
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	41	178	1,227
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	77	65	104
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	20	124	200
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	515	3,452	1,369
5C5	Newham PCT	94	268	348
5N2	Kirklees PCT	232	998	1,416
5H8	Rotherham PCT	58	125	310
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	76	676	1,246
5QJ	Bristol PCT	47	3	72
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	63	147	684
5J6	Calderdale PCT	238	942	1,134
5P5	Surrey PCT	415	3,560	6,318
5L1	Southampton City PCT	101	202	269
5K6	Harrow PCT	91	510	722
5J2	Warrington PCT	17	142	88
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	136	485	563
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	84	930	1,750
5PT	Suffolk PCT	53	206	436
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	17	16	237
5GC	Luton PCT	103	362	430
5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	10	1,821	2,227
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	29	439	2,141
5PF	Sandwell PCT	31	106	300
5PV	West Essex PCT	378	1,631	1,804
5NK	Wirral PCT	9	665	1,053
5N5	Doncaster PCT	326	718	539
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	58	257	959
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	17	111	505
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	8	31	384
5HP	Blackpool PCT	19	144	344
5NL	Liverpool PCT	6	67	193
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	7	108	102
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	14	102	66
5NE	Cumbria PCT	24	175	266
5KF	Gateshead PCT	5	44	95
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	8	13	68
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	8	502	288
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	20	115	667
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	4	1,639	3,352
5ND	County Durham PCT	5	135	448
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	5	102	108
5A7	Bromley PCT	9	73	700
5D7	Newcastle PCT	4	168	707
5J4	Knowsley PCT	5	283	408
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	19	63	224
5K9	Croydon PCT	30	409	1,293
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	5	22	139
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	24	70	255
5NR	Trafford PCT	17	60	299
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	215	1,131	1,898
5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	44	5,542	8,259
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	108	772	1,991
5C1	Enfield PCT	6	6	219
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCX	6	16	233
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	17	164	256
5M8	North Somerset PCT	1	—	16
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	4	79	1,061
5NT	Manchester PCT	12	160	345
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	724	2,853	4,660
5PN	Peterborough PCT	4	1,133	1,709
5QL	Somerset PCT	6	76	485
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	5	319	2,151
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	1	29	764
5F5	Salford PCT	22	382	899
5F7	Stockport PCT	10	132	171
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5	12	468
5HY	Hounslow PCT	1	2	30
5K8	Islington PCT	—	4	23
5LC	Westminster PCT	2	8	21
5LG	Wandsworth	2	5	21
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	2	44	210
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	2	14	24
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	43	1,549	2,622
5NJ	Sefton PCT	2	278	386
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	2	41	337
5QF	Berkshire West	39	396	2,070
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	1	20	506
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	2	866	1,397
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1	2	9
5A5	Kingston	12	250	325
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	6	17	155
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	5	9	76
5C9	Haringey Teaching	1	9	144
5D9	Hartlepool	—	75	170
5E1	North Tees	1	495	1,453

NHS extended choice network data 2007-10: Procedures

			Total	
PCT referrer code	*PCT*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	—	1,101	1,543
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	4	8	12
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	7	722	1,405
5HQ	Bolton	1	78	2,489
5HX	Ealing PCT	4	25	50
5J5	Oldham PCT	—	154	1,482
5J9	Darlington PCT	1	32	542
5JX	Bury PCT	10	88	406
5K3	Swindon PCT	—	23	936
5K7	Camden	1	1	7
5KM	Middlesbrough	—	838	1,564
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	4	6
5LD	Lambeth	—	28	79
5LE	Southwark PCT	—	7	40
5LF	Lewisham	1	9	143
5MK	Telford and Wrekin	23	163	185
TAP	Blackburn with Darwen Teaching Care Trust Plus	—	—	1,428
5QV	Hertfordshire PCT	—	—	4,926
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	—	—	—
RJN	East Cheshire PCT	—	2	—
5QK	Wiltshire	2	75	2,087
5QM	Dorset	—	118	571
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	1	210	473
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	1	17	652
	Grand total	34,357	103,859	182,857

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Social Mobility

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of the effects of income inequality on social mobility. [44524]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This Government are committed to a Britain where social mobility is unlocked; where everyone, regardless of background, has the chance to rise as high as their talents and ambition allow them.

The Government's views on the relationship between inequality and social mobility will be set out in the social mobility strategy due to be published later this month.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps his Department takes to measure social mobility. [44602]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This Government are committed to a Britain where social mobility is unlocked; where everyone, regardless of background, has the chance to rise as high as their talents and ambition allow them.

The Government are currently developing 'leading indicators' to improve our understanding of progress in improving social mobility. More detail will be announced in the Government's social mobility strategy due to be published later this month.

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: Reforms

Mr Ward: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the net effect on the public purse of changes to corporate branch taxation proposed in the HM Revenue and Customs paper on corporation tax reform of 29 November 2010; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect on levels of corporation tax avoidance of implementation of such reforms. [43256]

Mr Gauke: The Taxation of Foreign Branches measure, as set out in draft legislation in December, was estimated to have a steady state cost of £100 million a year by the end of the scorecard period, 2015-16.

More detailed figures will be made available at Budget 2011 when the policy is finalised.

This change will contribute to the Government's aim to have the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20 by helping to attract and retain businesses.

The Government will ensure there are anti-avoidance provisions to protect the UK against abuse of these rules, equivalent to those that apply to foreign subsidiaries. The change is intended to remove taxation on genuine economic activity abroad and will not be available for those artificially diverting their UK profits through branch structures.

Arts: Economic Situation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential role of the arts and creative industries in the Government's strategy for economic recovery *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the Brighton and Hove area; and if he will make a statement. [44641]

Danny Alexander: The Government's economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries.

The Government have launched the growth review, a rolling programme to last the whole Parliament, with a first report by Budget 2011. This will be a fundamental assessment of what each part of Government are doing to provide the conditions for private sector success and address the barriers faced by industry.

It will initially focus on two elements: (i) structural reform priorities that can benefit the whole economy and (ii) removing barriers in sectors where there are clear opportunities for growth and where Government can make a difference. This includes an examination of the digital and creative industries, among others.

Capital Gains Tax: Second Homes

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue foregone as a result of the avoidance of capital gains tax on second homes in the latest period for which figures are available. [43466]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate has been made.

Corporation Tax

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in each *(a)* local authority, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* region will be affected by the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax in 2011-12. [39184]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available. In total approximately 920,000 companies will benefit from the reductions in the main and small profits rate of corporation tax announced at the Budget. By 2014-15 the net impact of the CT measures announced in the Budget will be a cost to the Exchequer of £1,300 million.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on an average business in each *(a)* local authority, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* region of reducing the main rate of corporation tax by one per cent. in 2011-12. [39185]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available. In total approximately 920,000 companies will benefit from the reductions in the main and small profits rate of corporation tax (CT) announced at the Budget. By 2014-15 the net impact of the CT measures announced in the Budget will be a cost to the Exchequer of £1,300 million.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses in each *(a)* local authority, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* region will be affected by the change in the small profits rate of corporation tax in 2011-12; [39186]

(2) if he will estimate the effect on an average business in each *(a)* local authority, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* region of the change in the small profits rate of corporation tax in 2011-12. [39188]

Mr Gauke: Around 850,000 companies in the UK pay the small profits rate of corporation tax. In total, approximately 920,000 companies will benefit from the reductions in the main and small profits rate of corporation tax (CT) announced at the Budget. By 2014-15 the net impact of the CT measures announced in the Budget will be a cost to the Exchequer of £1,300 million.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the degree of losses *(a)* offset and *(b)* not offset by businesses trading in the UK in reducing their liabilities to corporation tax in each of the last four financial years. [44808]

Mr Gauke: HMRC publish statistics on trading losses from previous years offset against the current year's trading profits, and trading losses offset against other income for industrial and commercial and financial sector companies. This information is regularly updated and published in Table 11.2, on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_2.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of profits paid in corporation tax after losses offset have been taken into account by *(a)* large companies and *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises trading in the UK in the last three financial years. [44847]

Mr Gauke: HMRC publish statistics on gross taxable profits, trading losses from previous years offset against the current year's trading profits, and trading losses offset against other income for industrial and commercial, and financial sector companies. This information is regularly updated and published in Table 11.2, on the HMRC National Statistics website. The latest update is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_2.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of the projected revenue accruing from corporation tax in the next financial year of losses not yet offset by businesses trading in the UK. [44848]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated March 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The information that you have requested has not previously been published by the OBR. In line with our release policy, the OBR aims to meet ongoing requests for supplementary forecast information where this will improve the quality of public debate on the public finances. Our release policy is available on our website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/release_policy.pdf

Where the OBR publishes supplementary material, releases will be made in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence and gives equal access to information. The next scheduled release date for the publication of supplementary forecast information is 22 March 2011. Given that this is a day before the Budget, our intention is to include this information in the supplementary data published with the "Economic and fiscal outlook" on 23 March.

Debts: Developing Countries

Sarah Newton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent consideration he has given to extending the provisions of the Developing Countries (Debt Relief) Act 2010. [44918]

Justine Greening: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and the Act came into force on 8 June 2010. The legislation means that UK courts of law can no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty. The sunset clause attached to this legislation means that the law will expire on 7 June 2011. The Government are reviewing whether or not to extend the Act.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45029]

Justine Greening: Catering facilities are supplied in the Chancellor's building through a sub contractor to Treasury's PFI provider. The caterer has a policy in place not to purchase species on the current Marine Conservation Society's list and works closely with its own suppliers to achieve this.

In addition, they adhere to the guidance from both the Marine Conservation Society and the Marine Stewardship Council in relation to 'fish to eat' and 'fish to avoid'.

In both 2010 and 2011 to date the catering provider has been 100% compliant with these standards.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he has not implemented the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on compensation levels for Equitable Life policyholders. [44761]

Mr Hoban: The Government have announced that they accept all the Parliamentary Ombudsman's findings of maladministration in their entirety; they are now in the process of establishing a payment scheme that is swift, transparent and fair, in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations.

In her report, the Parliamentary Ombudsman recommended that the aim of the scheme should be

> "to put those people who suffered a relative loss back into the position that they would have been in had maladministration not occurred".

She also recognised that the public interest is a relevant consideration and that it is appropriate to

> "consider the potential impact on the public purse"

of any payment.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman wrote to the co-chairs and secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Justice for Equitable Life Policyholders in December last year stating, in reference to the Government's decisions on this payments scheme, that

> "I cannot say that those decisions are incompatible with the recommendations in my report".

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis was for his calculation of the funding to be made available to Equitable Life policyholders. [44762]

Mr Hoban: Sir John Chadwick and his actuarial advisers spent over a year carrying out detailed analysis and gathering information in order to be able to provide the first bottom up estimates of relative losses suffered by policyholders.

As a result of detailed actuarial analysis, the Government announced that the relative losses suffered by policyholders amount to £4.1 billion. As part of the spending review, the Government also announced that, after considering the Government's spending priorities and the potential impact on the public purse, they would make in the region of £1.5 billion available for the payment scheme.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take to introduce *(a)* a fuel duty stabiliser and *(b)* a rebate for remote rural areas in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) other parts of the UK; and if he will make a statement; [44591]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the economic effects of differences in levels of fuel duty between the UK and other EU states; and if he will make a statement; [44592]

(3) if he will reverse his decision to increase the rate of fuel duty on 1 April 2011. [44593]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 753W, to the hon. Member for South Down (Ms Ritchie), the answer given on 2 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 837W, to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright), and the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

The Government are planning to formally apply to the European Commission to implement a 5p per litre rural fuel duty rebate pilot scheme covering all islands in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Northern Isles, the islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly.

Financial Services: Foreign Companies

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he proposes to apply restrictions to European-based independent financial advisors operating in the UK following implementation of the outcomes of the retail distribution review; [45225]

(2) what estimate he has made of the financial effects on UK-based financial product providers of business conducted by commission-based European independent financial adviser services operating in the UK after 1 January 2013. [45250]

Mr Hoban: The retail distribution review (RDR) is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, an independent body.

As is the case now, EU based financial advisory firms will be able to passport into the UK after the RDR has come into force, through either setting up a branch here or by providing remote cross-border services. If a financial adviser from another member state sets up a branch in the UK, the RDR conduct of business rules will apply to it, including the disclosure and adviser charging rules. If it passports without setting up a branch, then its home member state conduct of business rules will apply instead—but a firm will not be permitted to operate on a cross-border services basis in the UK if it is doing so for the express purpose of evading RDR standards.

Government: Assets

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the rate of return on the Government's asset holdings in *(a)* British Waterways, *(b)* the Dartford Crossing, *(c)* the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, *(d)* High Speed 1, *(e)* the Land Registry, *(f)* the Met Office, *(g)* NATS, *(h)* NHS Professionals, *(i)* the Oil and Pipelines Agency Government Pipeline and Storage System, *(j)* Ordnance Survey, *(k)* Public Forest Estate England, *(l)* Public Sector Spectrum Holdings, *(m)* the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, *(n)* the Royal Mint, *(o)* the Student Loans Portfolio, *(p)* the Tote, *(q)* trust ports, *(r)* Urenco, *(s)* the Royal Mail, *(t)* the 800MHz and 2.6GHz spectra and *(u)* other public sector parts of the spectrum suitable for mobile communication purposes in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the revenue that would be raised from the sale of each such asset. [37347]

Danny Alexander: The following table sets out Return on Net Assets (RONA) where known or appropriate. RONA has been calculated as operating profit over net operating assets at the end of the year in question.

In November 2010 Government announced they were selling the right to operate its first High Speed Railway (High Speed 1) for £2.1 billion. We are unable to state the revenue that would be raised from any sale of other assets listed as this information is commercially confidential.

Asset	*RONA (percentage)*
British Waterways	1.0
Dartford Crossing[1]	5.1
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency[2]	n/a
High Speed 1	9.2
Land Registry	(35.8)
Met Office	4.3
NATS	17.0
NHS Professionals	(55.0)
Oil and Pipelines Agency Government Pipeline and Storage System[3]	n/a
Ordnance Survey	23.0
Public Forest Estate England	(2.8)
Public Sector Spectrum Holdings[4]	n/a
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	9.5
Royal Mint	15.4
Student Loans Portfolio[5]	n/a
Tote	14.2
Port of Dover	11.4 (2008)
URENCO	16.6 (2008)
Royal Mail	8.1
800MHz and 2.6GHz spectra[6]	n/a

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[1] The net asset value includes the crossings themselves (bridge and tunnels), land, approach roads, toll booths and related buildings.

[2] Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, now brought back within the Ministry of Defence Joint Supply Chain, does not have a separate balance sheet or trading accounts therefore it is not possible to calculate a return on net assets.

[3] The Oil and Pipelines Agency is a management company. The Government Pipeline Supply Service sits within the Ministry of Defence within Defence Equipment and Supply and does not prepare separate accounts.

[4] It is not possible to calculate a rate of return for Public Sector Spectrum Holdings as there is no income currently associated with these.

[5] We do not calculate a Return on Net Assets on the student loan portfolio.

[6] The current rate of return for 800MHz and 2.6GHz spectra is close to zero.

Note:

Figures for FY 2009 unless stated.

Income Tax

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of lowering the threshold at which the higher rate of income tax becomes payable on the weekly income of a person earning *(a)* £42,5000, *(b)* £43,000 and *(c)* £43,500 in 2011-12. [41686]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 increase in the income tax personal allowance for those aged under 65 to £7,475, with real terms gains focused on basic rate taxpayers through a reduction in the basic rate limit. This affects the higher rate threshold, which is the sum of the personal allowance and basic rate limit.

The resulting personal allowance, basic rate limit and higher rate thresholds for 2011-12 are £820 above, £2,400 below and £1,580 below the planned levels the Government inherited. The national insurance upper earnings ~~and~~ profits limits, which are aligned with the higher rate threshold, were also reduced by £30 per week.

The following table compares weekly income tax and national insurance contributions due in 2011-12 with and without these June 2010 Budget changes to the personal allowance and higher rate threshold for individuals with earnings of *(a)* £42,500, *(b)* £43,000 and *(c)* £43,500.

£

	Weekly			
Earnings (annual)	*Earnings*	*Change in income tax*	*Change in NIC*	*Change in income tax and NIC*
£42,500	817.31	-3.06	-0.03	-3.09
£43,000	826.92	-1.13	-0.99	-2.13
£43,500	836.54	+0.79	-1.95	-1.17

The table is based on an individual aged under 65 with employment income only and paying employee national insurance contributions (not contracted out).

Members: Correspondence

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West of 8 November 2010 concerning Blantyre and South Lanarkshire Credit Union. [43560]

Mr Hoban: My officials have asked the hon. Member's office for copy as the Treasury has no record of having received the correspondence referred to.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North of 21 January 2010 on fuel prices. [44242]

Justine Greening: I wrote to all hon. Members on 10 February to set out the Government's overall position on fuel duty. This letter was in response to any outstanding correspondence that hon. Members may have raised.

Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he plans to introduce to reduce levels of waste to landfill over the comprehensive spending review period. [44004]

Justine Greening: In the June 2010 Budget, the Government announced that the standard rate of landfill tax would increase by £8 per tonne each year up to and including 2014, and that the rate would not fall below £80 per tonne from 2014 to 2020. All new fiscal measures are announced at Budget.

Public Sector: Redundancy

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of public sector employees who are women who will be made redundant from public services in 2011-12. [44915]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published, as part of the 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' on 29 November 2010, projections for general Government employment to 2015-16, which can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

The OBR has not produced a breakdown by gender, or an estimate of redundancies as part of its forecast.

On 20 October 2010 the Treasury published an overview of the impact of the spending review on men and women, people from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. However it will be for individual employers to determine the exact workforce implications of their settlements.

Revenue and Customs: Leave

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the three most common reasons were for staff absence in each HM Revenue and Customs business stream in each of the last five years. [43744]

Mr Gauke: The following tables provides the three most common reasons for staff absence in each HM Revenue and Customs business stream in each of the last five years.

Year ended 31 December 2010

	Reason 1	*Reason 2*	*Reason 3*
Benefits and Credits	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Business Tax	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract
Corporate Services	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Enforcements Compliance	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Personal Tax	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Unknown—Grouping Not Found	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System

Year ended 31 December 2009

	Reason 1	*Reason 2*	*Reason 3*
Benefits and Credits	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Mental and Behavioural excl Stress Related
Business Tax	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract
Corporate Services	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Enforcement and Compliance	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Personal Tax	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Unknown—Grouping Not Found	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System

Year ended 31 December 2008

	Reason 1	*Reason 2*	*Reason 3*
Benefits and Credits	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Business Tax	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract
Corporate Services	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Enforcement and Compliance	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Personal Tax	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Unknown—Grouping Not Found	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System

Year ended 31 December 2007

	Reason 1	*Reason 2*	*Reason 3*
Benefits and Credits	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Circulatory System	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related
Business Tax	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract
Corporate Services	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract
Enforcement and Compliance	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract
Personal Tax	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Digestive System
Unknown—Grouping Not Found	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	Respiratory System excl Acute Resp Tract

Year ended 31 December 2006

	Reason 1	*Reason 2*	*Reason 3*
Benefits and Credits	Neoplasms	Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
Business Tax	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Not assigned	Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
Corporate Services	Not assigned	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue
Enforcement and Compliance	Not assigned	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue
Personal Tax	Not assigned	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related	Mental and Behavioural excl Stress Related
Unknown—Grouping Not Found	Not assigned	Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	Mental and Behavioural—Stress Related

Notes:

1. Staff absence is given as sickness absence (paid time off for holidays and public duties etc. are referred to as annual and special leave respectively).
2. There have been structural changes within HMRC over the period covered by the table. Data which could not be attributed to a particular business stream have been recorded as 'unknown'. The two former Departments did not move to a single IT system until November 2006 and that accounts for the relatively high number of unknowns in that year.
3. The numbers are actual days taken and not the full time equivalent.
4. The staff sickness absence reasons are ranked on the number of days taken by that absence.

Taxation: Foreign Companies

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses moved their headquarters for tax purposes away from the UK in each of the last four year for which figures are available. [42770]

Mr Gauke: Businesses may move their headquarters for a combination of reasons, including tax, and can restructure in different ways with different tax consequences, depending on the facts in each case. One form of restructuring involves businesses formerly headed by a UK tax resident company creating a new parent company that is claimed to be tax resident elsewhere. Businesses are not required to inform HMRC of this change, but on the basis of research undertaken by HMRC, we believe the numbers are as follows:

	Number
2007-08	1
2008-09	10
2009-10	7
2010-11	4

VAT: Registration

Mr Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on small and medium-sized enterprises of the time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process value added tax registration applications; [44785]

(2) what assistance HM Revenue and Customs provides to owners of small and medium-sized businesses who have experienced delays in the processing of applications for VAT registration. [44812]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) aims to issue VAT registration numbers as quickly as possible, while protecting the VAT system from fraud. It is necessary to balance the speed of registration against the need to risk assess applications and carry out necessary checks to safeguard against fraud.

HMRC's target is to decide 70% of applications within 10 days. Average performance for the period from April 2010 to January 2011 was 65%. However, monthly performance from August onwards has been ahead of target, with performance in December and January being 77.2% and 79.9% respectively.

HMRC recognises that where an application is selected for in-depth checks, these are currently taking longer to carry out than it would wish. The Department is looking at how it can improve performance in this area.

If a business is experiencing problems because of a delay in completing checks on its application, it should contact the Registration Team in Cardiff on 02920 325001.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade: Exports

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for which countries arms export licences have been revoked as a result of his Department's review of export licences announced on 18 February 2011; how many *(a)* individual and *(b)* open licences were revoked in respect of each country; and what the date of revocation was in each case. [44727]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* As at 3 pm on 3 March 2011 the following export licences have been revoked under this review:

Tunisia

One Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL) was revoked on 27 January and Tunisia was removed as a permitted destination from one Open Individual Export Licence (OIEL) on 28 January.

Egypt

36 SIELs were revoked between 7 February and 11 February and Egypt was removed as a permitted destination from eight OIELs between 10 February and 1 March.

Libya

62 SIELs were revoked between 18 February and 3 March and Libya was removed as a permitted destination from three OIELs on 23 February.

Bahrain

23 SIELs were revoked on 18 February and Bahrain was removed as a permitted destination from 16 OIELs between 18 February and 2 March.

The review is ongoing as we continue to monitor how the situation develops in this region.

Arts

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential role for the arts and creative industries within local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the Brighton and Hove area; what arrangements will be made for industries to be represented within LEPs; and if he will make a statement. [44639]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships are developed from the bottom up and as such it is for them to decide what their priorities for action should be. In forming their boards we would expect partnerships to ensure their business members reflected key sectors in their areas.

Businesses: Government Assistance

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support *(a)* existing small businesses and *(b)* to local business start-ups. [43283]

Mr Prisk: Business support is currently delivered via the regional development agencies through the Business Link regional advisory service and:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Government recently announced reforms to the way information, guidance and advice to small and start-up businesses is provided, with more focus on improving small business performance and growth, and a greater emphasis on further and better private sector provision. The 'Bigger, Better Business' document sets out the plans in detail. It can be found on the BIS website at:

www.bis.gov.uk

searching under publications. These include an online hub for people wanting to start up.

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department offers to assist start-up companies in the manufacturing sector. [43412]

Mr Prisk: A range of business support is currently delivered via the Regional Development Agencies through the Business Link regional advisory service:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

and targeted at start-ups and the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) at:

www.mas.bis.gov.uk

to help manufacturing businesses improve productivity and effectiveness.

Government recently announced reforms to the way information, guidance and advice to small and start-up businesses is provided, with more focus on improving small business performance and growth. The 'Bigger, Better Business' document sets out the plans in detail. It can be found on the BIS website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/b/11-515-bigger-better-business-helping-small-firms

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45076]

Mr Davey: The Department has not sold and leased back any building assets in the last 12 months.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether all new contracts his Department has tendered over £10,000 have been published with associated tender documents on the Contracts Finder website since its inception. [39215]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has published five sets of tender documents from a total of seven tenders issued since September 2010. The remaining two sets are being prepared for publication.

BIS has awarded three contracts subject to publication. The three contracts are being prepared for publication.

This Department receives its information and communication technology (ICT) provision via a private finance initiative (PFI) contract which is not subject to publication requirements.

Environment Protection

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of remanufacturing to achieving a low carbon economy. [44569]

Mr Prisk: Remanufacturing has an important role to play in achieving a low carbon economy. Reuse of components and remanufacture of products offers a promising way to meet growing demand for energy intensive goods whilst ensuring carbon emissions are reduced to acceptable levels.

This Department, in partnership with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, is currently carrying out a review of greenhouse gas abatement potential in energy intensive industries, in light of the move to a low carbon economy. In particular, with the support of industry and academic experts, we are considering the potential for greater material efficiency, including remanufacture and reuse, in key sectors such as steel, aluminium and plastics.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to make the operations of the Export Credits Guarantee Department more transparent and accountable; and if he will make a statement. [44983]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* On accountability, the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Department of State. Its powers are derived from statute: the Export Guarantees and Investment Act 1991, as amended by the Industry and Exports (Financial Support) Act 2009 (the Act). These powers may be exercised only with the consent of HM Treasury. Through its Secretary of State, ECGD is accountable to Parliament for all its activities. From time to time Parliament conducts enquiries that address ECGD's operations.

On transparency, ECGD fulfils the Government's commitment to transparency. ECGD publishes details of its operations, including export transactions it has supported, in its annual review and resource accounts and on its website. The entitlement to confidentiality, either for individuals or entities, is set by the law of confidence, and the basis for balancing openness and confidentiality by government and public authorities has been established by Parliament through the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations. ECGD operates within these frameworks.

Green Investment Bank: Costs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of salaries for *(a)* staff and *(b)* board members of the Green Investment Bank; and what estimate he has made of the administrative costs of the bank's operation. [45161]

Mr Prisk: The Government are committed to publishing details of the governance arrangements and the business and operating model of the new institution by the end of May 2011.

Green Investment Bank: Finance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements he plans to put in place to underwrite the Green Investment Bank. [45159]

Mr Prisk: The Government are committed to establishing the governance arrangements for the new institution by the end of May 2011 when a detailed announcement will be made.

Green Investment Bank: Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely number of employees at the Green Investment Bank in its first year of operation. [45160]

Mr Prisk: Decisions about the staffing levels required for the bank will be taken in due course, when the precise nature of the GIB is clearer. However, we are not envisaging an institution employing a large number of staff.

Green Investment Bank: Public Appointments

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements he plans to put in place to determine appointments to the board of the Green Investment Bank. [45158]

Mr Prisk: The governance arrangements for the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will depend on its final design, which we are currently working on and testing for effectiveness, affordability and transparency. We plan to make a detailed announcement by the end of May.

We expect to appoint staff to the GIB in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice on Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, and this Department's structural reform plan.

Intellectual Property: Reform

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on changes to legislation governing intellectual property. [44895]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has regular discussions about the subject, with his ministerial team in this Department, with colleagues in other Departments, and with other Governments. The subject also comes up frequently in contacts with business and other organisations with an interest in intellectual property.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of the further and higher education sectors on the setting of local skills strategies and the involvement of local enterprise partnerships in this process. [45206]

Mr Hayes: Further and higher education institutions are being encouraged to work together so that they can engage with their local enterprise partnership to ensure alignment between the economic development priorities and the skills provision available locally. This will include colleges consulting local enterprise partnerships, as well as other employer led bodies, local authorities and Jobcentre plus, on their business plans and how public funding can be aligned so that it contributes to local economic and community demand. In line with our commitment to reduce bureaucracy, there is no Government requirement for local skills strategies rather Government are getting out of the way and enabling local partners to develop the arrangements which meet their needs.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has issued guidance to prospective local enterprise partnerships regarding the inclusion of further and higher education representatives on their executive boards. [45207]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth the Government will normally expect to see business representatives form half the board, with a prominent business leader in the chair. Partnerships will want to work closely with other key economic stakeholders including further and higher education representatives but it is for partnerships to decide whether this involves providing them with a seat on their board.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account his Department's approval process for local enterprise partnerships takes of the capacity of applicants to reflect the diversity of the geographic areas which they cover. [45209]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth the Government will normally expect to see business representatives form half the board, with a prominent business leader in the chair. We would want to see these board members drawn from small enterprises through to large businesses, and representing the key sectors in the area.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Buckinghamshire

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that Buckinghamshire is included in a local enterprise partnership; and if he will make a statement. [45320]

Mr Prisk: Buckinghamshire's original proposal for a local enterprise partnership did not meet all the Government's expectations as set out in the Local Growth White Paper. The partnership was therefore asked to reconsider their proposal against these expectations and resubmit when they were met. The Government will be willing to discuss the partnership's proposed approach as this is developed.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Pay

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what salary scales apply to staff in local enterprise partnerships; and how many staff working for a local enterprise partnership are paid an annual salary in excess of £50,000. [45312]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships are voluntary arrangements between their respective members and are not an arm of Government. Government do not provide any funding to partnerships for their day-to-day running costs and it is therefore for partnerships to fund their staffing costs and at a level they see fit.

Medicine: Education

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the effects of planned changes to the student finance regime on those undertaking medical degrees. [44549]

Mr Willetts: The Department of Health (DoH), and professional bodies, including the British Medical Association, have made representations to the Department about the impact of the proposed changes to the funding regime for higher education and student support for medical students. We will continue to work with DoH and others to ensure that the interests of those taking medical degrees are taken into account.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the availability of *(a)* training and *(b)* skills in the automotive electronics sector; and if he will make a statement. [45185]

Mr Hayes: The Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies is the Sector Skills Council for the automotive and engineering sector. SEMTA works with employers to identify skills needs and seeks to improve the match between the supply and demand for technical skills. An assessment of the skills and training requirements for the industry is available through SEMTA's strategic action plans.

Office of Fair Trading: Complaints

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 960W, on the Office of Fair Trading: complaints, how many of the 985 total complaints made to the Office of Fair Trading were consumer complaints. [45151]

Mr Davey: Of the 985 total number of complaints about debt management companies made to the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) Enquiries and Reporting Centre between 2005-11, 796 complaints were received from consumers.

Overseas Companies: Libya

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effects of recent unrest in Libya on the finances and cash flow of UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) doing business in the region; and if he will assess the merits of offering short-term financial support to these SMEs. [44979]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* It is still too early to assess what impact the current situation in Libya will have on UK trade. UK exports to Libya in 2010 were £377 million but it is not possible to tell what proportion involved small or medium-sized enterprises.

Companies are strongly advised in all instances to take out trade credit insurance and to protect themselves against political risk. Those companies which did so and have lost financially as a result of the Libyan unrest are able to seek appropriate compensation.

We will continue keep the situation under review and would urge businesses to put in place crisis management plans. Advice is available from the Government website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Overseas Students: EU Nationals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 600W, on overseas students: EU nationals, how many *(a)* penalties were charged and *(b)* other actions were taken in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [44859]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Students from the European Union (EU) are entitled to receive the same student support as home students in respect of tuition fees. The first main cohort of EU students were due to start repaying in April 2010.

Where borrowers have returned overseas and have not responded, a default schedule is drawn up and the account put into arrears. A default letter is sent immediately asking for repayment of the default balance. This step allows court action to follow if necessary.

To date, no penalties have been charged to borrowers. As of 30 April 2010, 1,100 EU borrowers were in arrears (10% of EU borrowers). In 2009, the SLC successfully raised nine judgments against EU borrowers. The SLC enforced some in Scottish courts and some in other EU countries. This group of borrowers were those who had left their courses and who came into repayment earlier than the first main cohort. We cannot break the information down further as it could compromise the confidentiality of individuals.

It is too early to say how successful these processes will be since the full cycle has yet to be run. Nonetheless, we continue to work with the SLC to develop the most robust and cost-effective methods for collection as possible. This applies equally to UK students who notify the SLC that they are moving abroad.

Overseas Students: Loans

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many non-EU overseas students have not made scheduled student loan repayments in each of the last five years; [41705]

(2) how many students from European Union member states other than the UK have not made scheduled repayments to the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years. [41706]

Mr Willetts: Students from non-EU countries are not generally eligible for support. However, European economic area (EEA) migrant workers and certain family members, children of Swiss nationals and children of Turkish workers may be eligible. Such students are entitled to apply for the full student support package provided that they satisfy specific residence conditions. Information which separately identifies these borrowers from English borrowers is not available centrally.

European Union (EU) nationals are generally eligible for tuition fee support only, provided that they have been ordinarily resident in the EEA or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course. EU nationals have been eligible to apply for tuition fee loans since they were introduced in the 2006/07 academic year.

The number of EU borrowers who have taken out tuition fee loans only and have not made scheduled repayments to the Student Loans Company is shown table 1(iii) of the 'Income Contingent Repayments by Repayment cohort and tax year 2000/01 to 2008/09 inclusive (provisional)'. These official statistics are accessible at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP032010.pdf

The relevant categories are shown in the following table:

EU borrowers studying in England who took up a tuition fee loan and are liable to repay as at 30 April 2010

	Number of EU borrowers (percentage of the repayment cohort total)		
Repayment status	*Known to be overseas, above the earnings threshold for that country and has fallen into arrears*	*Known to be overseas, has not provided details of income and is now considered to be in arrears*	*Total*
Repayment cohort			
2007	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

EU borrowers studying in England who took up a tuition fee loan and are liable to repay as at 30 April 2010

	Number of EU borrowers (percentage of the repayment cohort total)		
Repayment status	*Known to be overseas, above the earnings threshold for that country and has fallen into arrears*	*Known to be overseas, has not provided details of income and is now considered to be in arrears*	*Total*
2008	100 (3%)	400 (21%)	2,100 (100%)
All cohorts with at least one tax year process	100 (3%)	400 (21%)	2,100 (100%)
2009	[1]—	500 (18%)	2,800 (100%)
2010	[1]—	[1]—	6,100 (100%)
Cohorts with no tax year processed as yet	[1]—	500 (6%)	8,900 (100%)
All ICR borrowers who have become liable to repay	100 (1%)	1,000 (9%)	11,000 (100%)

[1] nil or negligible

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100

Source:

Student Loans Company

Patents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the relative position of the UK in international comparator tables on the number of patents granted per million of population. [44604]

Mr Davey: The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) publishes worldwide patent application and grant statistics every year, according to the information it receives from patent offices around the world. Although it has previously published comparator tables on the number of patents granted per million of population, it has not done so for recent years, and in this year's publication it notes that patent offices do not consistently report the origin of patents granted.

WIPO does publish figures for patent applications filed per million of population and comparisons can be made for recent years up to 2007, in which the UK's position has been consistently within the top 10.

Several points should be borne in mind in making such comparisons. First, patents do not cover all areas of industrial and commercial endeavour, and so patent filings will reflect a country's economic structure. Some innovations are more likely to be monetised through other types of intellectual property, such as designs, trade marks, copyright, know how, and plant breeders rights. And there are some specific exceptions from patent protection under most national laws. Secondly, individual patents are not equal in value, which can depend on market forces and how well the patent has been drafted to stand up against challenge. Studies have shown that patent value is skewed so that a small percentage of patents overall turn out to have a very high value compared with the remainder. Thirdly, an applicant may choose not to patent in a particular market if there are no significant competitors. So the absence of a patent does not necessarily mean that no products are being sold.

Patents: EU Action

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will assess the effects on the *(a)* economy, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* UK competitiveness of (i) participation and (ii) non-participation in the proposed new EU patent system; and if he will make a statement; [43481]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* economic growth, *(b)* UK competitiveness, *(c)* levels of foreign direct investment and *(d)* other aspects of the UK economy of (i) participation in the proposed new EU patent system and (ii) continuing participation in the Europe Patent Office system for granting EU-wide patents; and if he will make a statement; [43482]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average cost per patent to UK businesses of using *(a)* the proposed new EU patent system and *(b)* the European Patent Office system for granting EU-wide patents; and if he will make a statement. [43483]

Mr Davey: The UK is strongly committed to an EU patent, or a unitary patent, that delivers real benefits for businesses and the European economy. The proposed unitary patent will offer an additional choice to businesses wishing to obtain patent protection covering the majority of the EU market. Estimates of the savings to business and economic impact are difficult to make as they depend on the arrangements that are finally agreed. But a unitary patent should allow businesses to save the costs of filing translations in order to validate their patent in the different countries concerned. Compared with a typical European patent under the current system, there could be savings of between £10,000 and £20,000 per patent on translations alone. For UK businesses currently taking out around 2,000 European patents per year this could represent a saving of £20-40 million a year. Other savings should be possible from simplified administration and enforcement of patents in Europe; the proposals are not sufficiently advanced to allow quantitative assessment.

Specific estimates for the effects of the proposed EU patent arrangements, or the existing European Patent Office (EPO) system on economic growth or foreign direct investment are hard to make, because the impacts of the intellectual property system are closely bound up with other regulatory and market factors. However, there have been a number of studies which show the role of aspects of the single European market in UK economic growth.

The Government recently published an assessment (BIS Economics paper 11) of likely additional national income in the UK if trade and competition in Europe were as integrated as it is in the US. If barriers in the EU were reduced to the point at which trade was as easy as between US states (which, unlike the EU, have one patent system), by 2020 UK national income would be 7% higher than if barriers had remained unchanged.

Emerging results from UK Trade and Investment's ongoing research programme show that intellectual property (IP) is important for foreign direct investment. About one third of inward investors to the UK cite IP as an important factor in their decisions to invest. Differences in IP systems can impose costs. These are particularly hard for young innovative firms which, under current arrangements, have to defend their intellectual property rights under national systems even if they have an EPO patent.

Postal Boxes: Northamptonshire

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Royal Mail post boxes there are in *(a)* the borough of Kettering, *(b)* Northamptonshire, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK. [44741]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* There are some 115,000 post boxes in the UK.

The Department does not hold any further breakdowns of post box numbers as this is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information Royal Mail holds on the *(a)* geographical location of and *(b)* Royal monogram borne by each post box in the Borough of Kettering. [44742]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* Post boxes are an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to announce the outcome of the transfer of regional development agency assets. [45261]

Mr Prisk: The Government anticipates the systematic disposal of Regional Development Agency (RDA) assets and liabilities will begin by April. Each RDA has submitted a detailed assets and liabilities plan and these are currently being scrutinised by Government. Information will be made available in due course, once in-principle decisions have been made on appropriate methods of disposal for particular types of assets.

Regional Government

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government prior to making the announcement on the creation of his Department's new regional offices. [41314]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* The proposals for ongoing functions have been developed as part of the Government's arrangements for the closure of the Government offices for the regions (and the closure of the regional development agencies). These arrangements were developed jointly by all the Government Departments with continuing functions.

Regional Growth Fund: Yorkshire and the Humber

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bids to the Regional Growth Fund have been made from *(a)* the Sheffield City region and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber; and what the total monetary value of such bids is. [44531]

Mr Prisk: 464 bids have been received in Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund(RGF). Of these, 21 bids (with a total value of Regional Growth Fund (RGF) request for £223 million) have been received from the Sheffield City region area and 56.5 bids (with a total value of RGF request for £405 million) from the Yorkshire and the Humber region. A summary of bids received in Round 1 of the RGF is available on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/RGF

Students: Fees and Charges

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who will apply for deferred places at universities for 2012; and when he expects tuition fees for such courses to be known. [45205]

Mr Willetts: Statistics on deferred entry to higher education are available via the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Final end of year figures for 2010 show that 487,329 applicants from all domiciles accepted a place at a UK institution; 33,472 of these have deferred entry to 2011.

Limited information is held on the extent of deferred entry to 2012 in the current application cycle. Applicants can make up to five choices on their application form and this can include courses which start in 2011 or 2012.

As of 21 February 2011, 604,705 people had applied for courses in the current application cycle, 18,711 of these applied for at least one course beginning one year or more after September 2011. At the equivalent point in the previous cycle, 587,857 people had applied, 28,075 of these applied for at least one course beginning one year or more after September 2010. In the 2011 application cycle the main deadline for universities and colleges to guarantee consideration of applications for those domiciled in the UK and EU was 15 January 2011.

The new support arrangements we are introducing from the 2012/13 academic year will apply to all students starting university in that year, including those who have deferred entry. When the new arrangements were announced, UCAS informed deferred entry applicants that had applied prior to 4 November 2010 about this by email. The email informed applicants of the implications of the new finance arrangements and advised them to check the BIS website for further information and contact individual institutions to discuss individual circumstances.

English institutions wishing to charge more than £6,000 per year will need first to have their plans for sustaining or improving access and student retention approved by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). OFFA will publish approved plans (access agreements) by 11 July 2011 and institutions will then be able to publish their tuition charges.

The tuition fee arrangements for devolved Administrations have still to be determined. The Welsh Assembly will vote on tuition fee changes before the elections on 5 May. Tuition fees for students applying to study at institutions in Scotland and Northern Ireland will be determined by the new Administrations after the elections on 5 May 2011.

UCAS will publish verified tuition fee information on a single date in July.

Technology: Greater London

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of organisations involved in the East London Tech City development. [44896]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills attended a meeting which the Prime Minister had with Eric Schmidt of Google on 24 January. In addition, the Minister for Universities and Science, the right hon. Member for Havant (Mr Willetts) and officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) have engaged with a number of companies interested in investing in the development. UKTI and BIS officials also attend monthly project meetings at No 10.

Vinyl Acetate

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to provide support for British manufacturers of vinyl acetate. [44567]

Mr Prisk: The Government have no plans to provide support for British manufacturers of vinyl acetate.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of skilled workers employed in the production of vinyl acetate in the UK. [44662]

Mr Prisk: This Department does not collect such information.

Yorkshire Forward: Assets

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what options he is considering for disposal of the assets and liabilities of Yorkshire Forward. [44204]

Mr Prisk: All regional development agencies (RDAs), including Yorkshire Forward, submitted detailed assets and liabilities plans to this Department on 31 January. These plans are currently being scrutinised and assets will be considered on a case by case basis. As we reach these decisions, I anticipate that the results will be made public as soon as possible.

The general principles upon which decisions on the disposal of RDA assets and liabilities will be made have already been set out in the Local Growth White Paper and repeated in a statement sent to the libraries of the House on 10 February 2010 and which can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/englands-regional-development-agencies/assets/statement-on-rda-assets-and-liabilities

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 10 March 2011

SCOTLAND

Cobra: Libya

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he or the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland have attended meetings of Cobra or its sub-group to discuss the Government's response to the situation in Libya. [45532]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers and officials attend meetings in the Cabinet Office briefing rooms when the business of the meeting requires their attendance. As is the case with information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees, details about Cobra meetings are generally not disclosed.

Departmental Official Cars

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he has been collected from a London airport and driven to *(a)* the Houses of Parliament and *(b)* Government offices in central London by (i) ministerial car, (ii) private hire vehicle paid for by Government and (iii) hackney cab reimbursed by Government since May 2010. [45652]

Michael Moore: I regularly travel from London airports by train and also make use of taxis and cars as required. We do not hold the detail of all individual journeys that the hon. Member has requested. The Scotland Office no longer has a contract with the Government Car Service.

Hospitals: Glasgow

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people normally resident in England live within *(a)* an hour's and *(b)* two hours' travel time of the Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow. [45345]

David Mundell: Health is a matter devolved to the Scottish Government and, therefore, this request should be directed to the NHS Information Services Division at Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent; Edinburgh EH12 9EB (telephone—0131 275 7777).

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Human Trafficking

5. **Robert Flello:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent progress has been made on the strategy to combat trafficking of women and girls. [45307]

Lynne Featherstone: Combating human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, is a key priority for the Government. We are committed to tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery, and to protecting victims. We are due to publish our new strategy on human trafficking in the spring.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Ian Murray: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent progress she has made in combating violence against women and girls. [45302]

Lynne Featherstone: On International Women's Day, we published a comprehensive action plan outlining the work taking place across Government to tackle violence against women and girl, a key priority for this Government. That is why we have already announced £28 million of funding for women's frontline services until 2015 and more than £10.5 million of funding for rape crisis services over the next three years.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the Government Equalities Office's adherence to each of the principles of good employment practice set out in the Cabinet Office publication Principles of Good Employment Practice. [42626]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office supports the principles of good employment practice for Government, Contracting Authorities and Suppliers set out by Cabinet Office.

Departmental Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which procurement projects engaged upon by the Government Equalities Office had a designated senior responsible owner in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date they were appointed in each such case. [45564]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office procures very little and does not have any need for such procurement projects.

TREASURY

Departmental Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department provides to other Government Departments on the minimum monetary value for a procurement project for which a senior responsible owner is required. [45662]

Danny Alexander: Treasury has published guidance on project governance for public sector projects. This guidance aims to help public sector bodies put in place and maintain the structures and forums that are needed for effective project governance, at all stages in the project lifecycle. This includes information on the role of senior responsible owners.

The guidance is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/ppp_projectgovernance guidance231107.pdf

However, Treasury does not set a minimum monetary value for a procurement project for which a senior responsible owner is required. Cabinet Office, which leads on project management policy, has published guidance stating that every project must have a senior responsible owner appointed, with personal accountability and overall responsibility for the delivery of a successful outcome.

Equal Pay

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the difference in the pay gaps between men and women in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [44912]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent assessment has been made of the difference in the pay gap between men and women in the (a) public and (b) private sector. (44912)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ONS's estimates of gender pay differences are based on median hourly earnings excluding overtime. I attach a table for 2010 showing the gender pay difference in the public and private sector, for median hourly earnings excluding overtime for all, full-time and part-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

Gender pay gap for employee jobs[1] in the public and private sector, 2010

	Percentage pay difference (women/men)		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*All*
Public	10.0	20.6	19.2
Private	19.8	-2.0	27.5

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence, as at April 2010.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

EU Economic Policy

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 435W, on EU economic policy, (1) what his definition is of economic policy coordination; and if he will make a statement on the matter before the commencement of proceedings on consideration of the European Union Bill; [44981]

(2) for what reasons the answer did not refer to the *(a)* Treaty and *(b)* legal base under which Treaty to which the statement by the heads of state or government of the euro area and the EU institutions referred; and if he will make a statement on the matter before the commencement of proceedings on the consideration of the European Union Bill. [44982]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 8 March 2011]:* The member states of the European Union engage in a broad range of economic policy co-ordination, examples of which are the Stability and Growth Pact, the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, the Europe 2020 growth initiative, and the current legislative proposals on strengthening economic governance.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 435W, which made no reference to the European Union Treaties because no treaty legal basis is required for intergovernmental agreements. Member states are at liberty to enter into any such agreements they wish provided these do not breach any of the treaties and respect the fundamental principles of the Union.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer received in duty from fuel sales *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in the Northern Isles, the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the islands of the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [45462]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs routinely publishes data on UK fuel duty revenues accruing to the Exchequer from 1999 to date at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Fuel duty is collected directly from fuel producers and therefore it is not possible to distinguish between different fuel consumers or geographic areas.

Financial Institutions

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many shares UK Financial Investments Ltd holds in each financial institution in which it has a stake; and if he will make a statement. [45387]

Mr Hoban: As set out in the UK Financial Investments (UKFI) Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10, UKFI currently holds 39.6 billion ordinary shares and 51.0 billion B-shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland. In Lloyds Banking Group UKFI currently holds a total of 27.6 billion ordinary shares.

UKFI also manages the Government's 100% shareholding in Northern Rock plc, Northern Rock Asset Management and Bradford and Bingley.

Fuels: VAT

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the cost of motoring of the January 2011 increase in *(a)* the standard rate of value added tax and *(b)* fuel duty. [45666]

Justine Greening: On 1 January 2011 the main rate of fuel duty rose by 0.76 pence per litre and on 4 January the standard rate of VAT rose by 2.5%. Data on average retail road fuel prices are published every week by the Department of Energy and Climate Change at:

www.decc.gov.uk/publications

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total revenue accruing to the Exchequer from motoring in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the level of such revenue in each of the next five years. [45672]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 935W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) and to the answer given on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 573W, to the hon. Member for East Londonderry (Mr Campbell).

Historic outturns of current receipts are published in Budget documents.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 11 January 2011 regarding the hon. Member's constituents Mr Ehren and Mr Maguire. [45340]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye of 3 December 2010, reference AR/LS/688, to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, transferred to his Department on 7 January 2011. [45670]

Mr Hoban: My officials have asked the hon. Member's office for a copy as the Treasury has no record of having received the correspondence referred to.

Minerals: Developing Countries

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with industry on the prospect of strengthening the due diligence requirements for companies that are listed on the London Stock Exchange engaged in mineral extraction in developing countries. [45660]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers hold regular conversations with representatives from the resource extraction industry as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with the previous Government, the Government do not disclose the outcomes of all such meetings and discussions.

Oil: Fuels

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the effect of global oil prices on the cost of fuel. [45665]

Justine Greening: At the recent G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Paris on 18-19 February the effects of potential excessive commodity price volatility were discussed and the G20 asked international organisations to report on the underlying drivers and the challenges posed by these trends for both consumers and producers and consider possible actions. Over the last few months the Chancellor has discussed a wide range of issues with his international counterparts, including energy prices.

Revenue and Customs: Credit Reference Agencies

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use HM Revenue and Customs makes of credit reference agencies and data-matching services to identify fraud. [45015]

Mr Gauke: HMRC currently uses a variety of data from credit reference agencies and other third parties in order to support and enhance its risking and enforcement activities. This is used in two main ways:

> Data sets from third parties are used to enhance HMRC's existing risking tools. This allows HMRC to, for example, cross-reference its own data with third party data in order to help identify potential fraud.
>
> Individual HMRC investigators can use credit reference agency data on a case-by-case basis where they feel it will aid their investigation, and where that data is not already held by HMRC.

Through a series of proof of concept trials, HMRC is exploring the benefit of further harnessing the expertise of credit reference agencies and data- matching services to help identify fraud.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigators were employed by HM Revenue and Customs in each month of the last five years. [45016]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs deploys compliance officers on a wide range of compliance activities including risk assessment, addressing inaccurate returns and verifying repayment claims, debt collection and criminal investigations across all heads of duty.

The number of compliance officers deployed by HMRC over the last five years are:

	FTE compliance officer
2005-06	39,000
2006-07	37,000
2007-08	34,500
2008-09	32,000
2009-10	31,000

The requested month by month breakdown could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Taxation

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer many individuals have appealed against demands for repayment of underpaid tax as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system; and how many have been successful. [45010]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Dundee East (Stewart Hosie) on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 679W.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals against tax liability calculations by HM Revenue and Customs were upheld in each month of the last five years. [45011]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals liable for underpaid tax as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system are over the pension age. [45012]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is only available at disproportionate cost.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals against tax demands by HM Revenue and Customs were *(a)* received and *(b)* upheld under extra-statutory concession A19 in each month of the last five years. [45013]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available. However, between September 2010 and 6 March 2011 HMRC received 41,645 extra-statutory concession A19 applications of which 9,760 were successful and 31,885 were unsuccessful.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many taxpayers have had their details passed to debt collectors by HM Revenue and Customs in pursuit of underpaid tax as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system. [45014]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is aiming to recover the majority of underpayments by adjusting people's tax codes or, where that is not possible, by securing payment on a voluntary basis.

No taxpayers have had their details passed to HMRC collectors or debt collection agencies for debt pursuit activity as a result of the recent end of year reconciliation difficulties.

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* economic activity, *(b)* trade, *(c)* tourism and *(d)* growth in the UK of disparities between levels of aviation taxation in (i) EU and (ii) G20 countries; and if he will make a statement. [45349]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W, to the hon. Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter).

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what account he has taken of the Compact between the Government and Civil Society in policy development; [42598]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to support the big society initiative; [42650]

(3) whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42668]

Justine Greening: The big society is an approach which is at the heart of Government's reforms across all policy areas. The Treasury, for example, supports the goals of the big society by ensuring that the tax system supports charitable giving. The Charity Tax Forum was established in 2010 to provide input to Treasury on the effectiveness of the charity tax system in supporting charitable giving. Furthermore, the Chancellor announced a £470 million package to support the civil society sector as part of the spending review and the Treasury is working closely with the Cabinet Office on the implementation of the big society bank. To support public service reform, the Treasury has also eliminated top-down process targets in favour of front-line professional judgment by scrapping public service agreements.

The Treasury fully supports and taken account of the Compact which facilitates better interaction between the sector and Government.

Treasury Ministers carry out their ministerial duties in line with the Ministerial Code. Any volunteering activities undertaken by Treasury Ministers in a personal capacity are a matter for them. Relevant interests, which may include voluntary activities, are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests.

VAT: NHS

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend section 41 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 to treat hospices on the same basis as NHS institutions for the purposes of value added tax. [45115]

Mr Gauke: All tax matters are kept under review. Announcements relating to tax are made at the Budget.

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of bringing charitable providers of health care services within the provisions of section 41(7) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994. [45130]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate has been made. However, all tax matters are kept under review and a range of estimates are made as part of this process.

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to provide funding to voluntary sector providers of NHS services to offset value added tax paid on non-business supplies which they are unable to recover. [45131]

Mr Gauke: The Government keep all such matters under review. The general principle is that the funding or payment provided to bodies that carry out public services is inclusive of the costs of providing that service, including any VAT or other tax costs. Equally, the VAT which is refunded to the NHS and other bodies is taken into account as part of those bodies' overall funding arrangements.

TRANSPORT

Trust Ports

15. **Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on the future of trust ports. [45288]

Mike Penning: I have not held any recent discussions on the future of trust ports. During my visits to ports and when I have been invited to speak at maritime events, I have made clear that what I want for trust ports is to make sure that they all have the right commercial ambitions to grow.

High Speed Rail

16. **Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects international passenger rail services on the High Speed 1 route to stop at Stratford International station. [45289]

Mrs Villiers: This is a commercial decision for the current and future operators on the line. At present, neither Eurostar nor Deutsche Bahn have announced plans to stop at Stratford.

Renewable Energy Directive

17. **Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the sustainability criteria in the renewable energy directive related to transport fuels; and if he will make a statement. [45290]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have received recent representations on the renewable energy directive biofuel sustainability criteria from a number of NGOs including the RSPB, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. We share some of their concerns regarding the sustainability of some biofuels. For that reason we propose taking a cautious approach to implementing the renewable energy directive as set out in the consultation we have launched today on proposals to implement the transport elements of the renewable energy directive and the associated fuel quality directive.

Major Sporting Events

18. **Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to ensure that transport infrastructure is sufficient to meet the anticipated volume of traffic for major sporting events in 2012 and beyond. [45291]

Mrs Villiers: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has statutory responsibility for transport planning for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is working closely with delivery partners, including the Mayor and TfL, to deliver reliable transport during the games. Billions of pounds are being invested in transport capacity improvements for the games, which will leave a lasting legacy.

Bus and Tram Fares

19. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on trends in bus and tram fares. [45292]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport collects and publishes a Bus Fares Index which contributes to official UK inflation measures. The most recent figures show that bus fares in Britain increased by 4.3% on average in the year to January 2011. The retail prices index rose by 5.1% over the same period. There is no equivalent information on tram fares.

Bus Services

20. **Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on planned changes to bus services receiving grants from his Department in the financial year 2011-12. [45293]

Norman Baker: In England, operators of local bus services receive Bus Service Operators Grant. I have received representations from hon. Members, members of the public and interest groups and have been able to confirm that we have decided to make no reductions in this grant in 2011-12.

A1: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans to upgrade the A1 north of Newcastle he has considered. [45331]

Mike Penning: This Government have not considered any specific proposals to upgrade the A1 north of Newcastle. In October 2010, the Department for Transport set out its plans for investment on the strategic road network in the document Investment in Highways Transport Schemes.

The Department has recently issued a consultation about the status of the A1 north of Newcastle, proposing to upgrade its status to a Route of Strategic National Importance. We are considering the views submitted and will publish our formal response in due course.

Bypasses: Isham

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects construction of the Isham bypass to be completed. [45535]

Norman Baker: The ministerial statement on 4 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 60-62WS, named the local major transport schemes that have been selected for the Development Pool for possible funding. The A509 Isham Bypass scheme was not selected and therefore will not be considered for funding by this Department in this spending review period (up to 2014-15). It is now for the promoters to consider their options, including whether further investment in the development of this scheme would be in the best interests of local council taxpayers.

Cycling: Safety

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on measures to ensure cyclists' safety of reductions in expenditure by his Department. [43111]

Norman Baker: The Government are keen to promote sustainable travel initiatives, including cycling.

Funding streams to local authorities have been simplified and de-ring-fenced, to give local authorities more freedom and flexibility to develop and implement solutions to meet local needs.

We have announced the local sustainable transport fund, a bid-based fund that will be for local authorities to build on their plans for sustainable travel measures through their local transport plans. The purpose of the fund is to enable the delivery by local transport authorities of sustainable transport solutions that support economic growth while reducing carbon.

We are making £560 million available to the fund over the four-year period to 2014-15. This compares with the £140 million of funding provided for Cycling England in total over the three-year period from 2008 to 2011.

We will not know the expenditure on cycling—including cyclist safety—until bids have been received in June and determined, which will occur this summer. The level of expenditure on cyclists' safety will depend on the priorities determined by local councils bidding to the fund.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Monuments

Thomas Docherty: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what progress the House of Commons Commission has made on plans to erect a memorial to *(a)* Robert Bradford and *(b)* Sir Anthony Berry within the House of Commons. [45529]

John Thurso: The Commission has decided, with the agreement of the families of the late Robert Bradford and Sir Anthony Berry, that memorials to each of the former Members will be placed in the Chamber of the House of Commons. Arrangements are currently being made.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals located in towns or cities with populations over 30,000 *(a)* do and *(b)* do not have a 24-hour accident and emergency department. [44974]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 24-hour accident and emergency departments there are in each primary care trust area. [44975]

Mr Simon Burns: A table setting out how many type 1 (major) accident and emergency (A&E) departments there are in each primary care trust area has been placed in the Library.

Accident and Emergency Departments: East of England

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the average travelling distance to a 24-hour accident and emergency department in the East of England. [44973]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Children: Abuse

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of high-profile child neglect cases on levels of referrals to social services departments. [41238]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

There were 603,700 referrals to children's social care services in England in 2009-10, an increase of 56,700 (10.4%) from the 2008-09 figures. The 2008-09 referral figures were themselves a small increase of 8,500 (1.6%) from the 2007-08 figures.

Although comparing 2009-10 data to previous years is not straightforward due to a change in how data are collected, it is clear that there has been an overall increase in the number of referrals received by children's social care services. The increase may be explained by a number of factors and the Department has not made a separate assessment of the impact of high profile child protection cases.

The independent review of child protection in England commissioned from Professor Eileen Munro has been looking closely at the referral process. In her recent interim report, Professor Munro observes that:

> "the variation in referral rates around the country and the fluctuations in referral rates in response to high profile child deaths both suggest that complexity, uncertainty, and anxiety play a significant part in making the decision to refer".

Professor Munro is examining local innovations that have helped reduce the number of inappropriate referrals to children's social care and will be submitting recommendations for reform on this area to the Government in her final report in April.

This reply applies to England only. The issues raised are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government in Wales.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45083]

Mr Simon Burns: The proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011 was 98.37% and 98.76% respectively.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45032]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held currently centrally for either the Department or its agency and non-departmental public bodies. These bodies hold contracts with suppliers for the delivery of catering and other facilities management services. The contracts are awarded through a competitive tender process based on the best overall value for money solution.

The Department and its non-departmental public bodies are committed to meeting the new reporting requirements and standards introduced as part of the new Government Buying Standards to be introduced shortly and discussions on this have already been held with the Department's catering provider to ensure they comply with the new standards.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45082]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009-10 the Department did not sell and lease back any of its assets. 2009-10 is the latest year for which audited financial information is available. There have been no such transactions to date in 2010-11, and none are expected before the financial year end.

Epilepsy: Deaths

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of preventable deaths from epilepsy and convulsions among people with learning difficulties in the latest period for which figures are available; what steps he plans to take to improve access to epilepsy specialists for people with learning difficulties and epilepsy; and whether he plans to review the provision of health services for people with learning difficulties and epilepsy. [45661]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect, or hold, information on the number of preventable deaths from epilepsy among people with learning difficulties.

The Government remain committed to providing access to high quality health care for people with learning disabilities as set out in "Valuing People Now" (2009). Learning disabilities is also included in the "NHS Operating Framework 2011/12", which further demonstrates this Government's commitment to improving health outcomes for all people with learning disabilities. NHS trusts—like all other public services—are responsible for ensuring that they meet the needs of all the people they serve.

Epilepsy: Diagnosis

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of instances of misdiagnosis of epilepsy in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [45601]

Paul Burstow: We have made no estimate of the number of instances of misdiagnosis of epilepsy.

Health Services: Charities

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the transfer of health care provision to the charity sector; and if he will make a statement. [45116]

Paul Burstow: The Government have no plans to transfer the provision of any specific type of health care to any particular type of provider, including the charity sector. Under the reforms set out in the Command Paper and Health and Social Care Bill, patients would be able to receive the best care from the best possible providers, regardless of who owns or runs them, with different types of provider competing on their merits. There is no goal to transfer national health service-funded care to any particular provider sector.

Horse Meat

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements exist for the enforcement of horse passport regulations in abattoirs. [40849]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

Horse passport regulations are enforced throughout England by the appropriate local environmental health and trading standards officers.

Hospices

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospices the NHS operates. [45114]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect information on the numbers of national health service hospices for adults. Details of hospice and palliative care provision in England are published by Help the Hospices, in partnership with St Christopher's Hospice, in the annual Hospice and Palliative Care Directory. In the latest publication, covering 2009-10, the total number of NHS adult hospice and palliative care inpatient units identified in England is 40.

There are around 40 children's hospices in England and none of them are operated by the NHS.

Hospital Beds: East of England

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital beds per head of population there were in *(a)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area and *(b)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 2007-08. [44977]

Mr Simon Burns: The data requested for Suffolk Primary Care Trust are not held centrally. However, the number of beds available overnight for the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) per head of population (thousand) is shown as follows:

East of England SHA

	Thousand
2007-08	2.71
2008-09	2.70
2009-10	2.65

Source:
Department of Health KH03 annual beds census

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcomes were of his Department's expenditure on problems in the musculoskeletal system in 2009-10. [43286]

Paul Burstow: The Department invested £100,000 in 2009-10 in the development of a national best practice tariff to support improvements in the quality and outcome of care for people with fragility hip fractures. The best practice tariff started in April 2010. It is awarded where surgery is undertaken within 36 hours of admission, where specialist geriatric assessment takes place within 72 hours and where the patient follows an agreed care pathway. Data relating to adherence to the best practice criteria are collected by the National Hip Fracture Database and are scheduled for publication in July 2011.

In July 2009 the Department published The Prevention Package for Older People Resources which includes material relating to falls and fractures. It is not possible to disaggregate expenditure specifically relating to problems of the musculoskeletal system, however, and no data on outcomes from use of the package are available.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of variations in levels of expenditure by primary care trusts on problems of the musculoskeletal system; and if he will make a statement. [43287]

Paul Burstow: Variations in levels of expenditure by primary care trusts (PCT) in England on problems of the musculoskeletal system forms part of a wider assessment of variation in expenditure that was conducted for the NHS Atlas of Variation. The atlas highlights the amount each PCT spends on clinical services and links this with the health outcomes patients see. A copy has been placed in the Library and can be downloaded at:

www.rightcare.nhs.uk/atlas/

Taken from 2009 data already in the public domain, the atlas assesses for the first time what 152 PCTs across England achieve with the money spent on services for their local population, as compared to other PCTs. Expenditure for Problems with the Musculoskeletal System across PCTs in England is outlined within the Atlas in map 19 on page 60.

NHS: Freedom of Information

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of providing information requested under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since the entry into force of the Act; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of such costs on the competitiveness of public bodies subject to the provisions of the Act compared to those private or voluntary sector providers who are not subject to those provisions. [44920]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Nurses: Schools

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on *(a)* expenditure on and *(b)* empowerment of school nurses authorised to recommend paediatric continence services for pupils. [45524]

Anne Milton: Officials from the Department of Health and Department for Education meet on a regular basis to discuss all aspects of school nursing.

It is for local national health service organisations to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of school nursing services.

School nurses have a key role in continence services for example managing nocturnal enuresis (bed wetting), advice on childhood constipation and supporting children and young people with disabilities and school staff to manage continence issues in school.

Sanitation: Schools

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on steps to ensure that water and toilet facilities in schools are at a standard sufficient to prevent avoidable negative health outcomes. [45455]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health has not discussed standards of water and toilet facilities in schools with the Secretary of State for Education.

Sexual Health

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities will maintain its work in respect of sexual health following the transfer to them of responsibility for public health. [45494]

Anne Milton: On 21 December 2010, we published the consultation document "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The consultation period ends on 31 March. For sexual health, we propose that local authorities will be responsible for commissioning comprehensive open-access sexual health services using funds from the ring-fenced public health budget.

The Department wants to ensure that local authorities are accountable to their local communities, and that they are able to determine how best to improve public health and reduce inequalities in health in their local area. However, some public health services for which local authorities will take responsibility will need to be commissioned in a universal way in all areas. The consultation asks which services should be mandatory for local authorities to provide or commission.

The public health grant to local authorities will be made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and as a ring-fenced grant will carry some conditions about how it is to be used. These conditions could be used to ensure the ring-fenced grant is spent appropriately, including ensuring value for money.

We are consulting on which essential conditions should be placed on the ring-fence grant to ensure a successful transition of responsibility for public health to local authorities. For example, to specify the role of the Director of Public Health in relation to spending decisions: or, to provide for other accountability arrangements. However, we will need to balance the need to ensure accountability for spend against the desirability of maximising the capacity for local decision-making about how best to spend the money and to minimise bureaucracy. We intend to seek to ensure this balance in any conditions that we impose on the grant.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45095]

John Penrose: The proportion of invoices paid to suppliers by the Department within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011 are set out in the table:

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days
January 2011	91.25
February 2011	96.60

Departmental Leaseback Arrangement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45094]

John Penrose: Nil.

Licensing

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W, on licensing, whether he expects the programme-making and special events band manager award to take place prior to 2016; and if he will make a statement. [43725]

Mr Vaizey: There is currently no timescale for appointing a band manager for the PMSE sector. Ofcom has stated that it will revisit the concept following the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W, on spectrum licensing, when he expects the process of appointing a band manager with responsibilities for the programme-making and special events sector to *(a)* begin, *(b)* be completed and *(c)* come into effect; and if he will make a statement. [43659]

Mr Vaizey: There is currently no plan for appointing a band manager for the programme-making and special events sector. The Office of Communications (Ofcom) has stated that it will revisit the concept following the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W, on spectrum licensing, which companies or organisations took part in the tender process undertaken by Ofcom for licensing and spectrum management services to the programme-making and special events sector; and if he will make a statement. [43660]

Mr Vaizey: Arqiva Ltd, Interconnect Ltd and Transfinite Systems Ltd took part in the tender process.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W, on spectrum licensing, whether the current arrangements to provide licensing and spectrum management services to the programme-making and special events (PMSE) sector are interim arrangements prior to the appointment of a PMSE band manager; and if he will make a statement. [43706]

Mr Vaizey: No, since there are no current plans to appoint a PMSE band manager.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W, on spectrum licensing, how many companies or organisations took part in the tender process undertaken by Ofcom for licensing and spectrum management services to the programme-making and special events sector; and if he will make a statement. [43708]

Mr Vaizey: Three organisations took part in the tender process for licensing and spectrum management services to the programme making and special events sector.

Newspaper Press

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the economic prospects for the local newspaper industry. [44695]

Mr Vaizey: Local newspapers continue to face challenging times as they meet the demands of structural and cyclical change. There is some evidence to show that newspapers might be over the worst, but advertising, which is the main source of income, remains depressed. To allow local news groups to provide a better offering to advertisers the Secretary of State recently announced that he would introduce secondary legislation to repeal certain cross media ownership rules. These include the rule that prohibits a person who owns a local radio licence with more than 45% coverage to also own a local newspaper with 50% or more coverage within the same area. This would allow local media groups to offer a more comprehensive package to advertisers and follows the recommendation made by the industry regulator Ofcom.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential benefits to children in families seeking asylum of the introduction of the Family Returns Panel. [45425]

Damian Green: The panel will provide independent advice to the UK Border Agency on how best to ensure the return of families who have been found to have no right to remain in the country and who have failed to go voluntarily or to comply with instructions to do so without the need for enforcement action. The panel will ensure that the welfare of children is a central consideration in the new process. The panel will not have any role in respect of families whose application for asylum is still under consideration.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of what proportion of air passenger movements passenger name record data were used for *(a)* security checks and *(b)* risk assessments in the latest period for which figures are available. [45227]

Damian Green: We do not hold details on the proportion of passenger name record (PNR) data used for security checks and risk assessments.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on introducing passenger name record checks on all air passenger movements *(a)* inbound to, *(b)* through and *(c)* outbound from the UK. [45228]

Damian Green: The extension of passenger name record checks is presently being considered for inclusion in the e-Borders programme, which operates inbound to and outbound from, the UK: no timescale has been set for the inclusion of additional checks, as this is dependent on approval of the business case.

At present we are collecting passenger name record (PNR) data on a voluntary basis from a number of carriers on high-risk routes. These carriers are providing PNR data on 146 routes covering 14.4 million passenger movements into and out of the UK per year.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for the introduction of *(a)* a manual and *(b)* an automated authority to carry function as part of the UK's passenger checks; and by what date she expects this function to be available in respect of all flights landing at UK airports. [45229]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to making changes to pre-flight checks to identify people who pose a potential terrorist threat and prevent those who pose a severe terrorist threat from flying into and out of the UK.

e-Borders will provide the capability to support a manual process and, in due course, potentially provide an automated process to provide or deny authority to carry at the point of check-in for certain categories of individuals seeking to travel to and from the UK.

No timetable has yet been established. We will shortly be undertaking consultation on proposals to implement a statutory authority to carry scheme, initially on a manual basis. We are currently examining options for deploying an automated process.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from what proportion of air passenger movements her Department captured passenger name record data in the latest period for which figures are available. [45230]

Damian Green: We are currently collecting passenger name record data for 11.4% of total air passenger movements.

Burglary

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences involving bogus callers were reported in each London borough in each of the last three years. [45408]

James Brokenshire: The available information relates to offences of distraction burglary recorded by the police and is given in the following table.

Offences of distraction burglary recorded by the police by London borough

Number of offences

London borough	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Barking and Dagenham	60	92	101
Barnet	106	64	75
Bexley	55	51	30
Brent	55	64	53
Bromley	94	152	43
Camden	42	45	47
City of Westminster	22	17	23
Croydon	82	110	85
Ealing	63	72	95
Enfield	80	97	86

Offences of distraction burglary recorded by the police by London borough

Number of offences

London borough	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Greenwich	70	90	51
Hackney	63	44	53
Hammersmith and Fulham	28	38	33
Haringey	65	67	63
Harrow	33	48	31
Havering	65	126	68
Hillingdon	83	91	60
Hounslow	67	77	81
Islington	70	66	50
Kensington and Chelsea	15	18	43
Kingston upon Thames	29	36	46
Lambeth	44	89	52
Lewisham	108	130	65
Merton	47	48	35
Newham	55	80	95
Redbridge	95	100	60
Richmond upon Thames	32	57	45
Southwark	85	104	90
Sutton	37	29	35
Tower Hamlets	55	50	86
Waltham Forest	106	134	100
Wandsworth	74	87	68
Total	1,985	2,373	1,948

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45034]

Damian Green: The Home Department inclusive of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies does not contract directly for food supplies but procures catering services through wider facilities management (FM) or operational service contractors.

When placing a contract with FM or operational services contractors, government guidance on sustainable food and farming is incorporated in appropriate terms and conditions with regards to the procurement of food. Purchasing policy is reviewed frequently to incorporate new policy initiatives.

The Department's caterers are not contractually required to have systems in place to monitor and provide detailed reports across the wide range of food which they purchase. To introduce contractual obligations for caterers to set up complex reporting regimes would lead to additional expenditure and incur disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of the term domestic violence her Department uses for the purposes of official statistics; and which relationships are covered by this term. [44936]

Lynne Featherstone: There are two sources of official statistics on crime in England and Wales: crimes recorded by the police and those estimated from the British Crime Survey (BCS), a representative sample survey of adults aged 16 and over resident in households.

Police recorded crime statistics are defined on the basis of legal offences and incidents of domestic violence cannot be separately identified as it is the outcome of such incidents which will be recorded as an offence by the police e.g. actual bodily harm. Additionally, no information is centrally available on the relationship between the victim and the offender.

The BCS has two definitions: a narrow measure of "domestic violence" defined as comprising incidents of wounding and assaults which involves partners, ex-partners, other relatives or household members; and a broader one of "domestic abuse" defined as any non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

Drugs: East of England

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug-related offences were recorded in each police force area in the East of England in each year since 1997. [45146]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally on recorded crime do not identify whether offences are drug related. The recorded crime statistics do include the number of specific drug offences recorded by the police and the available information is given in the table.

The recording of drugs offences by the police is particularly dependent on police activities and priorities. Furthermore, in recent years the number of offences recorded has been affected by the powers available to the police for possession of cannabis offences. In April 2004, the introduction of cannabis warnings allowed the police to issue a warning on the street and in January 2009 the police were also given the power to issue penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for possession of cannabis.

Drug offences recorded by the police in the East of England region

	Bedfordshire	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*
1997[1]	223	205	401	215	337	333
1998-99[2]	1,141	1,166	2,312	1,197	1,534	1,581
1999-2000	1,081	1,011	2,421	1,180	1,561	1,410
2000-01	896	829	2,208	1,438	1,160	1,178
2001-02	1,009	798	2,212	1,350	1,211	1,292
2002-03	1,069	904	2,377	1,553	1,392	1,689
2003-04	1,130	1,047	2,295	1,678	1,508	1,923
2004-05	1,131	1,174	2,328	1,754	1,602	1,974
2005-06	1,228	1,442	2,889	2,044	1,821	2,015
2006-07	1,015	2,124	3,254	2,945	2,005	1,781
2007-08	1,178	2,904	3,971	3,539	2,191	1,884
2008-09	1,362	2,583	4,766	4,388	2,193	2,109
2009-10	1,381	2,355	4,056	4,902	1,830	1,822

1. Trafficking in controlled drugs only.
2. Includes trafficking offences, possession offences and other drug offences.

Notes:

1. In 1998-99, the coverage was extended and counting rules changed. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Homicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of homicide rates in each socio-economic group. [44809]

James Brokenshire: No formal assessment has been made of homicide rates by socio-economic group.

The employment status classifications on the Homicide Index are not necessarily comparable to those defined by the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification, and it is not possible to show the figures as rates per million.

Knives: Crime

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the level of *(a)* knife crime and *(b)* homicide by use of a knife by people aged under 20 years in (i) London, (ii) England and (iii) Wales. [45121]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office collects data on offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument from the police forces of England and Wales via a special additional data collection. This collection does not contain data on victims or suspects and, therefore, it is not possible to break the data down by age of suspect.

However, homicide data collected via the Homicide Index can be broken down by age of suspect. The Homicide Index is a record level database containing information on each homicide recorded by the police in England and Wales. Data are provided in Table A.

Table A: Homicide by sharp instrument offences currently recorded by the police in England and Wales[1] where the suspect was aged under 20 years, 2009-10

Area	*Number of homicides*
London[2]	12
England	28
Wales	3
England and Wales	31

[1] Excluding British Transport Police.

[2] London includes Metropolitan and City of London Police.

Passports: Diplomatic Service

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether ministers in her Department authorised the issue of false passports to members of the diplomatic mission to eastern Libya. [45656]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45.

Refugee Council: Finance

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on reductions in the level of funding provided to the Refugee Council. [45204]

Damian Green: My officials and I have received a number of letters from MPs and other interested parties on this issue.

Road Traffic Offences: Suffolk

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many drivers were prosecuted under the Road Traffic Act 1988 for an offence of failing to stop after an accident in Suffolk in each year since 2005; [45140]

(2) how many drivers were prosecuted for offences under section (a) 3 and (b) 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [45145]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of proceedings at magistrates courts for offences of failing to stop after an accident in the Suffolk police force area from 2005 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in Table 1.

The number of proceedings at magistrates courts for offences under sections 3 and 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in the Suffolk police force area from 1997 to 2009 can be viewed in Table 2.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Table 1: Number of proceedings at magistrates courts for offences under s.170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, Suffolk police force area, 2005 to 2009[1,2]

Offence	*Act*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Failing to stop after accident	Road Traffic Act 1988, s.170(4)	166	162	182	66	138
Failing to report accident within 24 hours	Road Traffic Act 1988, s.170(4) and (7)	114	116	136	52	128
Total		280	278	318	118	266

Table 2: Number of proceedings at magistrates courts for selected offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988, Suffolk police force area, 1997 to 2009[1,2]

Offence	*Act*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Careless driving without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for other road users	Road Traffic Act 1988, s.3	668	589	519	537	523	600	540
Driving on a footway	Road Traffic Act 1988, s.34(1); Metropolitan Police Act 1839, S.54(7); Highway Act 1835, s.72	3	4	2	4	3	2	4

Offence	*Act*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Careless driving without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for other road users	Road Traffic Act 1988, s.3	580	589	514	548	382	625
Driving on a footway	Road Traffic Act 1988, s.34(1); Metropolitan Police Act 1839, S.54(7); Highway Act 1835, s.72	6	6	2	1	2	3

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Visas

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many multi-visit visas her Department issued in each of the last three years; and in respect of which 10 countries the greatest number of such visas were granted. [45406]

Damian Green: The number of multiple-entry visit visas issued globally in each of the fast three years is shown in table 1. Table 2 lists the top 10 nationalities and the number of visas issued in each of these years.

Table 1: Multi-entry visit visas issued

	Global total
2008	135,5380
2009	138,5309
2010	153,9519

Table: 2: Top 10 nationalities

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
India	286,435	275,809	301,804
Russia	120,450	110,004	132,714
China	96,869	102,143	138,164
Nigeria	91,682	96,216	105,238
Turkey	72,521	69,882	78,969
South Africa[1]	516	93,627	101,374
Pakistan	76,144	52,647	52,594
Saudi Arabia	46,685	56,635	60,992
Kuwait	38,965	42,596	46,183
Thailand	32,742	37,909	43,633

[1] The figure for South Africa reflects the imposition of a visa regime in 2008.

Note:

This information is based on Management Information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Visas: Students

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to identify fraudulent student visa applications. [45423]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is already taking steps to identify fraudulent (student) visa applications. The UK Border Agency's International

Group currently has over 100 intelligence officers overseas in its Risk and Liaison Overseas Network (RALON), providing an effective overseas disruption capability. The UK Border Agency has also established police referral programmes in 53 countries to deter the use of false documents as part of the visa application process.

The UK Border Agency ensures that all sponsoring educational intuitions have a valid UK Border Agency Tier 4 licence and all applicants' biometrics are checked against various immigration, criminal and counter-terrorism databases in the UK. Robust checks are carried out to verify the authenticity of supporting documents.

Applicants will be automatically refused and may be banned from coming to the UK for 10 years if they use a false document, lie or withhold relevant information. They may also be banned if they have breached immigration laws in the UK.

The Government are concerned about the number of non-EEA nationals who enter the UK on student visas but whose main intention is to work and settle permanently in the UK. Nearly half of those entering via the student route come to study courses below degree level and abuse is particularly common at those levels. We are reviewing the student entry route. A consultation on the student immigration system closed on 31 January. The results of the consultation will be published in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund: Lincolnshire

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many grants through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund have been given in grant aid to organisations in North Lincolnshire; and what the value was of each such grant. [45587]

Richard Benyon: Monies from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) are paid to local authorities through Area Based Grants. Payment is made to Lincolnshire county council, not specifically North Lincolnshire; and the decision on how these monies are spent is the responsibility of that authority.

Lincolnshire county council was allocated £107,000 from the ALSF for 2010-11. In addition, other ALSF grants may have been made available to wildlife and archaeological trusts etc., for example, through DEFRA's main delivery partners.

Agriculture: Payments

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Rural Payments Agency is taking to increase the speed with which it processes the claims of applicants whose single farm payment status has changed during the year. [45373]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the written statement I made on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, about progress on the 2010 single payment scheme.

Agriculture: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an estimate of total levels of private sector agricultural research and development funding in the last five years; and whether she has made an estimate of the likely level of such funding in each of the next four financial years. [34427]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold information on private sector investment in agricultural research and development.

Beef: Production

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reports she has received on the cost of beef production to farmers. [44471]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 March 2011]*: DEFRA has not received any recent reports that are specifically on the costs of beef production to farmers. Data from the Farm Business Survey indicate that average farm business income on grazing livestock (cattle and sheep) farms increased over the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 from £12,500 to £22,000 for lowland enterprises and from £10,500 to £22,000 for those in the less favoured areas (LFA).

However, provisional estimates for 2010-11 indicate a fall in income to around £11,500 in the lowlands and to £14,500 in the LFA due to higher input costs and lower prices for finished cattle.

Bees: Pesticides

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made for benchmarking purposes of the effect on bee populations in other countries of the banning of neonicotinoid pesticides. [37831]

Mr Paice: Four EU member states have placed some additional restrictions—not bans—on the use of neonicotinoid insecticides. The UK pesticides regulator keeps up to date with developments on this issue through contacts with its counterparts in other member states and participation in EU fora.

A scientific report submitted to the European Food Safety Authority in December 2009, entitled: "Bee Mortality and Bee Surveillance in Europe", showed that although there have been some high colony losses in Europe, there is a lack of comparative data and the contributory factors are not fully understood. In addition, the effectiveness of the surveillance systems employed by member states varies considerably, which causes difficulties in assessing trends and forecasts. The European Commission has recently announced, as part of a series of initiatives on bee health, that a pilot surveillance programme will be started by the end of 2011. The programme is aimed at providing a better understanding of the situation in the EU.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of colonies that have been lost in England and Wales over the last two years and last year's losses were the lowest since 2001.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other invertebrates. [44712]

Mr Paice: DEFRA and the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate, as the pesticides regulator, has received representations from a number of Members of Parliament, and some organisations and members of the public concerned about the effect of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other pollinators.

Biodiversity: International Cooperation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department is providing for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. [45794]

Richard Benyon: The establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is a priority for this Government. We have been closely engaged in securing international support for the platform and welcome the agreement made by the UN General Assembly last year to put it into operation. We have agreed to provide £2 million over the next four years to assist in this process.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 689W, on circuses: animal welfare, what the reason is for the time taken to announce the outcome of the consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. [44635]

Mr Paice: Ministers and officials have been carefully considering the findings of the consultation and seeking the views of key interest groups. An announcement will be made shortly.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newport West of 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 925W, on circuses: animal welfare, for what reason Lord Henley has undertaken additional meetings with representatives of animal welfare groups and the circus industry following the end of the consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. [44636]

Mr Paice: Additional meetings with animal welfare groups have been held because these organisations wanted to have an opportunity to raise their concerns direct with DEFRA Ministers. It also provided an opportunity to question these organisations about their proposals.

Departmental Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each public body sponsored by her Department incurred on engaging external audit services in each of the last three years; and to which service providers such payments were made in each year. [43762]

Richard Benyon: The Department and its arm's length bodies report the expenditure on audit services in their annual resource accounts which are publicly available. The majority of these services are provided by National Audit Office (NAO) which is not classed as an external audit services provider.

The NAO scrutinises public spending on behalf of Parliament, helping it to hold Government Departments to account and helping public service managers improve performance and service delivery. It audits the financial statements of all central Government Departments, agencies and other public bodies and reports the results to Parliament.

The following table shows where an external auditor was used for annual audit of financial activities.

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
National Forest Company	—	—	[1]6,200
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	[2]28,967	—	—
Consumer Council for Water	[3]26,173	[3]30,618	[3]30,330
Commission for Rural Communities	—	[4]8,790	[5]12,985.14
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	[6]63,416	[6]32,340	[6]33,244

[1] Grant Thornton
[2] Moore Stephens
[3] KPMG
[4] PKF UK
[5] RSM Tenon
[6] PricewaterhouseCoopers

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45025]

Richard Benyon: No such estimate has been made as this information is not currently held centrally due to the numerous catering contracts in place. However, DEFRA's new catering contract which will commence in April stipulates that the contractor shall ensure that the fish is supplied from sustainable sources and in compliance with the Government Buying Standard for food and catering when established and as amended from time to time.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in her Department were in the civil service redeployment pool on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of these had been in the redeployment pool for more than six months at that date. [44355]

Richard Benyon: On 1 March 2011 seven employees were recorded on the Department's redeployment register. One of these employees has been on the redeployment register for more than six months at this date.

Dogs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many exempted dogs subject to the provisions of section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 her Department has recorded on its exempted register *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Merseyside. [45273]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 9 March 2011]:* As at 7 March, there are 1,324 live section 1 dogs on the Index of Exempted Dogs nationally. Of these, 181 are recorded in the Merseyside area.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place for schemes funded through the Rural Development Programme for England following the closure of the regional development agencies; and if she will make a statement. [43556]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the written statement I made on 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 6WS.

Fish: Consumption

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has considered measures to encourage consumers in England to eat *(a)* dab, *(b)* coley, *(c)* flounder and *(d)* other less popular fish. [45413]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has commissioned work to understand the potential for encouraging increased consumption of less popular species like dab, flounder and gurnards as part of an initiative called Fishing for the Markets. This project aims to increase consumption of sustainable, underutilised fish species that are often discarded. Coley is a quota species with very good quota uptake and so it may not be a good candidate for us to encourage increased consumer uptake, as a small increase could mean we overfish the stock.

The Fishing for the Markets project began last year and research is ongoing. Initial results will be available in spring 2011 and measures to encourage consumption of those species considered sustainable will be developed from these findings.

Forestry Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what alterations she has made to levels of funding to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other public bodies in each of the next four financial years as a consequence of her recent announcements on policy on the disposal of land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. [44015]

Mr Paice: No alterations have been made to funding given to local authorities or other public bodies as a consequence of recent announcements regarding the disposal of land owned or managed by the Forestry Commission.

Public Forest Estate

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which dates she met the Prime Minister to discuss her policy on the future of land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. [43548]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State met the Prime Minister on 14 February to discuss the future of the public forest estate. She also spoke to him on the phone and at other meetings on other occasions.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on legislation governing the production of genetically modified foods. [44541]

Mr Paice: The Government believe that genetically modified crops and foods should be subject to a robust assessment of their potential impact on human health and the environment, taking full account of the scientific evidence. This is consistent with the existing EU legislation in this area, which provides for case-by-case, science-based decisions.

Growth

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria she plans to use to monitor the sustainability of Government policies on growth. [44169]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 March 2011]:* The sustainability of Government policies will be monitored using the criteria set out in the new mainstreaming SD vision announced on 28 February 2011.

Horse Passports

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many horses registered with passports she estimates on average die each year; and how many passports for dead horses were surrendered or cancelled in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [35574]

Mr Paice: During the course of 2010 a total, of 44,230 horses were reported to the National Equine Database (NED) as having died, of which 17,523 were reported as having died during the course of that calendar year. The dates of the deaths of the remaining 26,707 horses were not notified and are therefore not known.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of *(a)* horse passports and *(b)* the National Equine Database; and if she will make a statement. [35575]

Mr Paice: We are currently considering the Government's requirements in respect of horse passports and associated data. In the meantime, we are proposing to extend the current National Equine Database contract which expires at the end of the current financial year.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a meeting at her Department to discuss the abolition of 80 equine passport issuing authorities on 24 January 2011 was convened by *(a)* officials or *(b)* Ministers of her Department; and what outcomes she expects there to be from that meeting. [35576]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The meeting between DEFRA officials and horse Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) scheduled to be held on 24 January has been postponed. An alternative date has yet to be set. The meeting was intended to discuss the future authorisation and issuing of horse passports.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to her Department was of the National Equine Database in the last year for which figures are available; and what plans she has for the future funding of that database. [35577]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* During the financial year 2009-10, DEFRA paid NED Ltd a total of £172,915.95 (exclusive of VAT) for the provision of the National Equine Database. The current contract which expires at the end of the current financial year is due to be extended pending further consideration of the Government's ongoing requirements in respect of horse passport data.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many equids she estimates are in the UK; and how many horse passports have been issued to date. [35579]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The latest estimate of the horse population is taken from the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) National Equestrian Survey 2005-06. This survey estimated the horse population of Great Britain to be 1.3 million.

As at 31 December 2010 the National Equine Database held records for 1,275,317 equine passports issued in the UK.

Milk

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of supermarket retailers on prices paid to milk producers; and if she will make a statement. [43570]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 2 March 2011]:* On 20 January I chaired the Dairy Supply Chain Forum which included representatives of supermarket retailers. We had productive discussions on the health and future of the dairy sector, the trade balance, the EU Commission's legislative proposals, and industry sustainability. We did not explicitly discuss the issue of milk prices because this would not be appropriate under competition law.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reports she has received on *(a)* the cost of milk production to farmers and *(b)* the profit level per litre of milk produced by farmers. [44470]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 March 2011]:* The NFU has drawn the attention of DEFRA to its recent report, "The Cost of Milk Production". This can be found at:

www.nfuonline.com

DEFRA has estimated the following costs[1] of milk production for 2009-10 using data from the Farm Business Survey in England[2]. These estimates are representative of the vast majority of milk produced in England and will include a small proportion of organic production.

Cost of production in pence per litre	*Proportion of milk produced under these costs in 2009-10 (percentage)*
Less than 20ppl	22
20ppl to less than 22.5ppl	25
22.5ppl to less than 25ppl	27
More than 25ppl	26

[1] The costs included in this analysis cover fixed and variable costs and imputed charges for unpaid labour and an imputed rent on owned land. Some of the costs are allocated to the dairy enterprise by arithmetic estimation rather than directly from the farm's accounts.

[2] The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Source:

Farm Business Survey, England, 2009-10

In round terms the average cost of production was around 22.5ppl and the average price received was nearly 24ppl.

The Farm Business Survey also reported on the level of farm business income for dairy farms in England. This averaged £56,100 per farm in 2009-10 with agriculture contributing over £24,000. Agri-environment schemes, diversified activities and the single payment accounted for the remainder.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are available to her Department to control the price per unit paid to milk producers. [44968]

Mr Paice: The Government do not believe in setting milk prices. These are the result of commercial decisions. The market must drive both production and price levels. This will ultimately help develop an efficient, profitable sector that is able to compete on the global market.

Plastic Bags: Wales

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the implications for UK-wide environmental policy of the introduction of a levy on single-use carrier bags in Wales. [42534]

Richard Benyon: No such study of the introduction of a levy for single use carrier bags in Wales has been made by DEFRA. The Government will set out future waste policies for England when the DEFRA Waste Review is published in May.

Public Sector: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the possible inclusion in the Government Buying Standards of a requirement to purchase seafood that is subject to sustainability standards as indicated either by inclusion on the Marine Conservation Society's fish to eat list or by certification by the Marine Stewardship Council; [44931]

(2) what her policy is on the possible inclusion in Government Buying Standards of a prohibition on the purchase of seafood on the Marine Conservation Society's fish to avoid list. [44932]

Mr Paice: We want to lead by example, which is why we are currently establishing the first ever Government Buying Standards for food. We are looking at a range of options, including buying 100% of our fish from sustainable sources and we will announce the final standards later this month.

Rural Areas: Business

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to aid diversification amongst rural businesses. [42589]

Mr Paice: Assistance is available through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to help rural businesses with their diversification plans. The RDPE aims to improve competitiveness in the agriculture and forestry sector; safeguard and enhance the rural environment; and foster competitive and sustainable rural businesses and thriving rural communities.

Sewers

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the water and sewerage companies on the proposed transfer of private sewers to water companies. [45520]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA officials continue to meet regularly with Water UK, the representative body for the water industry, to discuss various aspects of the Government's proposals for the transfer of private sewers.

Slaughterhouses: Regulation

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce the regulatory burden on small abattoirs. [44893]

Mr Paice: The Government have established an industry-led Task Force on Farming Regulation to identify ways of reducing regulatory burdens on the farming and food processing industry, and achieving a risk-based system of regulation. The regulatory burden on abattoirs is one of the areas being considered. We look forward to considering the task force's recommendations, once it has completed its work later in the spring.

Supermarkets: Competition

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 455W, on the Groceries Supply Code of Practice, whether she plans to introduce in the draft legislation a provision to enable the Groceries Code Adjudicator to ensure that supermarkets pay farmers within a reasonable time for the products they produce. [44969]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have agreed to establish the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) in response to the Competition Commission's recommendation that there was a need for a body to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (as contained within the Groceries [Supply Chain Practices] Market Investigation Order 2009). The code is focussed on contracts between retailers and their direct suppliers, including the provision, in Part 4, for "No delay in Payments".

The Government have no intention to extend the GCA's role beyond monitoring and enforcing the Groceries Supply Code of Practice.

Transforming the long-standing culture of late payment requires a multi-faceted strategy to engage and educate business. The Prompt Payment Code, developed with the Institute of Credit Management, seeks to identify payment exemplars across both the public and private sectors. Signatories to the Prompt Payment Code, including some of the retailers covered by the Groceries Supply Code of Practice, are required to pay within agreed terms and to communicate effectively with suppliers. Further information on the Prompt Payment Code can be found at:

http://www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk

Timber: Imports

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department takes to ensure that imported timber has been obtained from legal sources; and if she will make a statement. [45364]

Mr Paice: We will put in place legislation to prohibit the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market, restricting its purchase, possession and sale down the supply chain. Further details, including our plans for public consultation, will be announced in due course.

This is complemented by the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Regulation, which requires timber imports from countries that have signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU to carry a licence to prove legality. These new legislative measures underline our commitment to eliminate illegal timber from the UK market.

Veterinary Services

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many qualified veterinary surgeons of each grade were directly employed by her Department in each of the last 10 financial years. [44806]

Mr Paice: I regret that I am unable to provide information in the format and for the entire period requested. The figures do not include veterinarians in the senior civil service.

Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency employ the largest number of veterinarians in the DEFRA network and their figures provide the clearest indication of the trends over recent years.

Animal Health (AH)

	Veterinary Officer	*Veterinary Inspector*	*Grade 6*	*Grade 7*	*Total*
2007	250	42	—	—	292
2008	236	44	—	—	280
2009	254	52	4	17	327
2010	225	54	4	17	300
2011	210	46	4	17	277

Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)

	Pay Band A	*Pay Band B*	*Pay Band C*	*Total*
2006	9	21	75	105
2007	8	18	70	96
2008	12	12	74	98
2009	12	12	70	94
2010	11	12	73	96
2011	10	11	72	93

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

	Veterinary Research Officer	*Senior Research Officer*	*Grade 6*	*CEO*	*Total*
2006	8	2	3		14
2007	9	2	3		15
2008	8	2	3		14
2009	10	2	2		15
2010	12	2	1		16
2011	10	1	2		14

Core DEFRA

	Veterinary Adviser	*Grade 6*	*Total*
2007	24	12	36
2008	22	10	32
2009	20	8	28
2010	19	9	28
2011	17	7	24

Combined AH, VLA, VMD and core DEFRA total

	Number
2007	439
2008	424
2009	464
2010	440
2011	408

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to respond to question *(a)* 35577, *(b)* 35579 and *(c)* 35576 tabled on 19 January 2011 for answer on 24 January 2011. [40846]

Mr Paice: I have answered these three questions.

EDUCATION

Academies

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what authority will be responsible for *(a)* funding academies, *(b)* ensuring each academy's compliance with its funding agreement, *(c)* providing day-to-day advice to academies on operational matters and *(d)* management of the performance of academies. [42708]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) is responsible for funding academies, ensuring each academy trust complies with its funding agreement, providing day to day advice to academies on operational matters and management of the educational and financial performance of academies.

The Education Bill, currently before Parliament, proposes the setting up of the Education Funding Agency which will be responsible for funding academies.

Academies: Finance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the formula was for the calculation of the funds withdrawn from local authority budgets for functions that academy schools will in future provide for themselves. [37249]

Mr Gibb: Our calculations were based on the amounts of local authority central services equivalent grant (LACSEG), which we currently pay to academies that have converted from a maintained school. There are two elements to the grant: the proportion which the Department can recoup from the dedicated schools grant that would otherwise go to local authorities, and the proportion that the Department cannot recoup because it is in respect of services normally paid from other local authority funds. For the latter, on the basis of local authorities' financial statements provided to the Department under section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Schools, Children and Learning Act 2009, we estimated an average amount per pupil across all local authorities, and applied that to our estimates of the number of new academies opening over the next two years, using average school sizes. The resultant amounts were then reduced to reflect annual reductions in local authorities' formula grant. The final amounts deducted from local authorities' formula grant were £148 million in 2011-12 and £265 million in 2012-13.

Academies: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library copies of the correspondence between his Department and the Abraham Guest High School in Wigan on the conversion of that school to academy status. [38486]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* It is not the practice of the Department to place on record any communications or correspondence related to current discussions around the development of individual academy projects. This would inhibit the free and frank discussions needed to secure school improvement.

Adoption

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many babies under six months old were available for adoption in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [42428]

Tim Loughton: Information on children available for adoption has not been collected centrally historically. The Department collects information on children who have been placed for adoption with prospective adopters.

We have recently begun to collect information on the number of children where the decision has been made that the child should be placed for adoption. This information will provide a complete picture of the number of children available for adoption. However, these data have only been collected for the last two years and there are some concerns over the quality of the data reported that still need to be addressed.

We can provide figures relating to those placed since 1997. The number of children, aged less than six months old, who were placed for adoption at 31 March 1997 to 2010 is shown in the following table. These figures show information for England only; information for Wales is not collected by the Department. The number of children placed for adoption does not represent all looked after children who are available for adoption as it does not include those children who are waiting to be placed with prospective adopters.

Children looked after at 31 March who were placed for adoption[1, 2, 3]. Years ending 31 March 1997 to 2010. Coverage: England

	Children who were placed for adoption aged less than six months[4] (number)
1997[5]	20
1998[6]	70
1999[6]	40
2000[6]	60
2001[6]	40
2002[6]	40
2003[6]	40
2004[5]	30
2005[5]	30
2006[5]	20
2007[5]	20
2008[5]	10
2009[5]	10
2010[5]	10

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[4] Children aged less than 183 days old as at 31 March.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.
[6] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.
Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Asthma

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations govern whether a school may keep an inhaler for use in an emergency by children with asthma. [38714]

Mr Gibb: The Medicines Act 1968 defines asthma relief inhalers as prescription only medicines (POMs), for use by people for whom they have been prescribed. This does not allow for schools to carry spare stocks of inhalers for general use.

Guidance issued by the Department, "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings" makes it clear that children with asthma need to have immediate access to their reliever inhalers and advises that spare inhalers labelled for the use of individual children may be kept at school or early years settings, in case a child's ready access inhaler is mislaid or runs out.

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to enable schools to keep shared inhalers for the purposes of treating asthma attacks in those using school premises. [38715]

Mr Gibb: Guidance issued by the Department, "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings" makes it clear that children with asthma need to have immediate access to their reliever inhalers and advises that spare inhalers labelled for the use of individual children may be kept at school or early years settings, in case a child's ready access inhaler is mislaid or runs out.

Children: Disability

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if the Early Intervention Grant will fund support services for families with disabled children including *(a)* short breaks (respite), *(b)* early support, *(c)* key working and *(d)* the disabled children's access to childcare programme. [26997]

Sarah Teather: The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) is a new funding stream created for local authorities to invest in early intervention for the most vulnerable children, young people and families bringing together funding for a number of early intervention and preventative services. EIG will replace a number of existing funding streams which will come to an end in 2011. Details were announced by the Secretary of State for Education on 13 December 2010.

EIG will not be ring fenced because we are committed to giving local authorities greater autonomy and flexibility enabling them to use resources in ways that reflect local need, not central Government prescription. It will be for local authorities to determine how they use that resource to best effect, including what services would be funded for families with disabled children, early support and key working. The grant will help local authorities to support vulnerable young people to engage in education and training, intervening early with those who are at risk of disengagement and to support those young people who have a learning difficulty, disability or mental health problem.

Children: Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children who were considered to have been trafficked have gone missing from local authority care in the last year. [40640]

Tim Loughton: We do not collect data centrally on the number of looked after children who may have been trafficked into the country and who have gone missing from care.

Class Sizes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average teacher-pupil ratio is in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* special and *(d)* all schools in (i) England and (ii) London. [40408]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in London and England, January 2010.

Pupil:teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, coverage: London and England

Years: January 2010

	London	*England*
Nursery schools		
PTR within-schools[2]	15.5	16.2
Primary schools		
PTR within-schools[2]	21.2	21.3
Secondary schools		
PTR within-schools[2]	15.1	15.7
Overall		
Overall PTR[3]	16.3	16.6
Special schools[4]		
PTR within-schools[2]	5.6	6.1

[1] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.

[2] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[3] The overall PTR is based on the total FTE number of pupils on roll in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and the FTE of all teachers in these schools (including: centrally employed; occasional teachers; those on employment based routes to QTS; others without QTS, those on paid absence and any replacements). The teacher numbers are from the 618g survey.

[4] Special schools are not included within the overall PTR.

Source:

School Census and School Work force Census and618gsurvey (overall teachers)

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on carbon offsetting in each of the last three years; and to which companies payments for carbon offsetting were made in each such year. [40287]

Tim Loughton: The former Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has paid the following into the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund phase 1 (GCOF1) for offsetting domestic and ministerial air travel to Trading Emissions plc:

April 2007 to March 2008—£4,635

April 2008 to March 2009—£3,965

April 2009 to March 2010—£2,207

Each payment was made in the financial year following the year in which emissions were incurred and to which the offsets therefore relate.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make it his policy to ensure that contributions towards transport costs for those aged under 18 are a permissible use of the Discretionary Learner Support Fund for colleges with rural catchment areas. [33631]

Mr Gibb: We are considering the replacement for the EMA, including how the funds should be allocated to ensure that support is targeted on those children who most need support to allow them to continue in education.

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility for making the necessary arrangements for transport to enable 16 to 18-year-olds (and 19 to 25-year-olds with a learning difficulty and/or disability) to attend education and training.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when schools and further education colleges will be informed of their allocation of discretionary learner support in the *(a)* London Borough of Camden and *(b)* London Borough of Brent. [38187]

Mr Gibb: We are considering the replacement for the EMA, including how the funds should be allocated to ensure that support is targeted on those children who most need it to allow them to continue in education. We plan to announce the allocations for the new funds in the spring.

Duchy of Cornwall: Children's Rights Bill [HL]

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consultation his Department had with the Duchy of Cornwall on the provisions of the Children's Rights Bill [Lords]; and what action he took as a result. [41842]

Sarah Teather: The Queen's consent is required if a Bill affects the prerogative of the Crown or the interests of the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall. In the case of the Duchy of Cornwall, the

Prince of Wales's consent must also be obtained. We can confirm that the Department did consult the Duchy of Cornwall in relation to the Children's Rights Bill but we do not disclose the contents of correspondence with members of the Royal Family or the Royal Household.

Early Intervention Fund

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which grants to local authorities have been aggregated into the Early Intervention Fund; what the monetary value of each of these grants was in 2010-11; and what funding has been provided for the Early Invervention Fund in 2011-12. [41443]

Sarah Teather: The Early Intervention Grant is a new un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

A number of existing centrally-directed grants to support services for children, young people and families are ending and are replaced by the Early Intervention Grant. The amounts of those grants for 2010-11 are listed in Table 1. This is a major reform and gives local authorities greater freedom to respond to local needs and target resources where they will have the greatest impact. The overall Early Intervention Grant is £2,222,555,697 in 2011-12 and £2,307,196,996 in 2012-13. Further information is available at

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/

Table 1

Grant name	*2010-11 allocation (£ million)*
Sure Start Children's Centres	1,135.148
Early Years Sustainability—including funding for sufficiency and access, quality and inclusion, buddying, holiday child care and disabled access to childcare'	238.044
Early Years Workforce—quality and inclusion, graduate leader fund and every child a talker	195.701
Two Year Old Offer—Early Learning and Childcare	66.744
Disabled Children Short Breaks	184.647
Connexions	466.732
Think Family	94.196
Youth Opportunity Fund	40.752
Youth Crime Action Plan	11.975
Challenge and Support	3.900
Children's Fund	131.804
Positive Activities for Young People Programme	94.500
Youth Taskforce	4.344
Young People Substance Misuse	7.002
Teenage Pregnancy	27.500
Key Stage 4 Foundation Learning	19.882
Targeted Mental Health in Schools Grant	27.818
ContactPoint	15.000
Children's Social Care Workforce	18.156
Intensive Intervention Grant	2.800
January Guarantee	6.000
Child Trust Fund	1.325
DfE Emergency Budget Reduction	-311.000
Total grants	2,482.982

Education

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the compulsory teaching of *(a)* drama, *(b)* music, *(c)* art and *(d)* information technology in schools. [42592]

Mr Gibb: Music, art and design and information and communication technology (ICT) are currently subjects within the national curriculum in England and compulsory for all pupils in maintained schools at Key Stages 1 to 3, and in the case of ICT also at Key Stage 4. Drama does not have separate subject status within the national curriculum but is an element of the Programme of Study for English.

We are currently reviewing the national curriculum with a view to focusing it on the essential body of knowledge in key subjects which all children need to learn in order to succeed in education and in life, and to give teachers greater freedom beyond that core to design and teach a curriculum which best meets the needs of their pupils. We intend that English, mathematics, science and physical education will continue to be compulsory subjects within the national curriculum at Key Stages 1 to 4 in future. The review will determine which other subjects will remain compulsory, and at which key stages.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the replacement for education maintenance allowance over the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [39686]

Mr Gibb: Details of the costs of the financial support that will replace the education maintenance allowance (EMA) from September 2011 will be announced shortly. The new fund will be designed to target support more sharply to those students facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.

Educational Psychology

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides to local authorities in respect of educational psychologists. [32346]

Sarah Teather: The Department provides a range of guidance documents that have a bearing on the work of educational psychologists, the main one being the special educational needs (SEN) code of practice. This provides statutory guidance to local authorities and others to whom the code applies and includes advice on the role of educational psychologists, particularly in relation to statutory assessments of children's SEN. The statutory guidance on promoting the educational achievement of looked-after children (March 2010) and promoting the health and well being of looked-after children (November 2009) are also pertinent to the work of educational psychologists. It is, of course, up to local authorities to deploy educational psychologists as they see fit.

Educational Visits

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made on reviewing the guidance for the application of the rarely cover rule in relation to school trips and field visits. [39903]

Mr Gibb: The Government signalled in their response to last year's Children and Young People's Committee's report, 'Transforming Education Outside the Classroom', that schools should be given greater freedoms to organise themselves to support field trips and other educational visits. Our reforms will ensure that schools have the freedom and flexibilities to organise staff and resources in a way that reflects local priorities and needs. As part of delivering this commitment we are planning to ask the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) to consider a wide range of issues, including how to address some of the rigidity in the existing pay and conditions arrangements for teachers.

We trust schools to make sensible decisions about opportunities for education outside the classroom through forward planning and careful scheduling of these activities. Where this happens, the rarely cover provisions should not prove to be an obstacle to children being taught outside the classroom.

English Baccalaureate: Religion

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to make a decision on the inclusion of religious education within the English Baccalaureate for the purposes of the 2011 school performance tables. [38975]

Mr Gibb: I intend to publish information on all measures to be included in the 2011 performance tables in our annual statement of intent, which will be published at

www.education.gov.uk/performancetables

We have not set an exact date for publication, but it will be before the summer break.

Extended Schools

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of schools in each local education authority operate *(a)* breakfast and *(b)* after-school clubs. [35811]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not collect data on the proportion of schools in each local education authority operating *(a)* breakfast clubs and *(b)* after-school clubs. However data from the Training and Development Agency for Schools indicate that by September 2010, nearly all maintained schools (99%), including Academies and special schools, were offering access to extended services. This included those schools providing access to breakfast clubs and after school activities.

In addition, the Department's Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents for 2009, (published in 2010) entailed interviews with a sample of just over 6,700 parents with children aged under 15. This found that one-third of the sample of families used a breakfast or after-school club on a school site and 7% used a breakfast or after-school club off-site. Full details can be found at:

http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR054

Extracurricular Activities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on participation in out-of-school activities of patterns of (i) television viewing and (ii) internet usage by children of school age. [38318]

Sarah Teather: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any recent research on the effect of TV viewing or internet usage by children on their participation in out-of-school activities. However, the Department's longitudinal survey of young people in England (LSYPE) included a question in 2005 about hours spent watching TV among respondents aged 13/14 (and again at 14/15) and I have asked my statisticians to produce an analysis of the data for the hon. Member. This will be sent to him as soon as it is available. The survey does not include data on internet usage.

The Department is also aware of recent commercial research publications on TV viewing and internet usage, notably the Childwise Monitor Survey, details at:

www.childwise.co.uk

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the effects on *(a)* well-being and *(b)* educational attainment of children in each socio-economic group of average daily time spent (i) watching television and (ii) using computers; and if he will make a statement. [38508]

Sarah Teather: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any recent research on the effect of TV viewing by children on their well-being or educational attainment. However, the Department's longitudinal survey of young people in England (LSYPE) included a question in 2005 about hours spent watching TV among respondents aged 13/14 (and again at 14/15) and I have asked my statisticians to produce an analysis of the data for the hon. Member. This will be sent to him as soon as it is available.

The Department commissioned an evaluation of the impact on attainment of children and young people's home use of ICT for educational purposes (Valentine et al, DFES, 2005). The research found that there was a statistically significant positive association between pupils' home use of ICT for educational purposes and improved attainment in mathematics at years 6 and 9, and a modest but more extensive association with attainment in English and mathematics at year 11. Using a home computer for educational purposes at year 2 did not have a statistically significant positive association with pupil attainment.

The full report can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/RR672.pdf

However, this research does not examine the impact on well-being or use of ICT for non educational purposes.

Food: Procurement

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to make schools aware of the Government buying standards for the public procurement of food and food services. [40833]

Tim Loughton: The School Food Trust and DFE will communicate the Government buying standards as best practice for schools to apply when procuring school food and catering services, via website, schools forum, caterers forum and newsletters.

GCSE: Blackpool

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C in 2009-10. [37303]

Mr Gibb: The number of pupils attending maintained schools in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including equivalents in 2009/10 is as follows:

Number of pupils[1,2] achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent attending maintained schools in Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituency, 2009/10*

Constituency	*Total number of pupils*	*Number of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	1,017	831	81.7

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4.

[2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including academies, city technology colleges and special schools located in Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituency.

Source:
National Pupil Database (amended data)

Figures showing the percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including equivalents and other indicators for all constituencies in 1996/97 and between 2004/05 and 2009/10 will be available shortly on the Department's In Your Area website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inyourarea/

and in the House Libraries.

Harnessing Technology Grant

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to allocate the further instalment of the harnessing technology grant to schools. [39708]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* The final instalment of the harnessing technology grant was paid on 20 September 2010 and there will be no further instalments.

Latin and Classics: English Baccalaureate

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to the inclusion of GCSE *(a)* Latin and *(b)* classical civilisation in the English Baccalaureate language and humanities component. [38870]

Mr Gibb: GCSEs in Latin counted towards the English Baccalaureate measure in the 2010 performance tables.

In terms of Classical Civilisation, one of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history. Classical civilisations was not included in the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate for the 2010 performance tables because the historical element of the course was not considered sufficient. We will however be taking on board comments about the English Baccalaureate measure and reviewing the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 performance tables.

Music: Education

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) when he expects to publish the outcome of the independent review of music education; [38182]

(2) when he expects the report of the Henley review of music education to be published. [39009]

Mr Gibb: The review of music education carried out by Mr Darren Henley was published on 7 February 2011.

National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools: Finance

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to support *(a)* the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools and *(b)* supplementary schools in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012. [36965]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education allocated £350,000 to the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools in 2009-10. A further £95,000 was allocated in 2010-11 and funding will come to an end in March 2011.

The Department has not allocated any funding direct to supplementary schools.

Outdoor Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to improve the provision of fieldwork for school pupils; and if he will make a statement. [41191]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to improving standards and acknowledge the recommendation in Ofsted's report 'Geography, Learning to make a world of Difference', published on 4 February, that schools should maximise opportunities for fieldwork to enhance teaching and improve motivation.

The value of fieldwork to the teaching of the sciences was also highlighted in the report 'Outdoor Science' released on 19 January by the Association for Science Education, Outdoor Science Working Groups.

Our National Curriculum review will look at how we can put a clearer focus on content and the essential knowledge that all children should acquire while leaving heads and teachers free to decide how to teach this most effectively. We would welcome those who support the benefits of fieldwork to engage in the call for evidence at:

www.education.gov.uk/ncreviewcallforevidence

Pre-school Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from representatives of *(a)* nurseries and *(b)* pre-schools on the adequacy of funding from his Department for the provision of the free entitlement to early education; and if he will make a statement. [25810]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The coalition Government are clear in their support for the provision of free nursery education and that this should be delivered by a diverse range of providers.

Funding for free nursery education is devolved to local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant. It is a matter for local authorities to distribute this funding locally. In July 2010, we announced that every local authority will be expected to introduce the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) from April 2011 following successful implementation in more than 70 pathfinder areas this year. The EYSFF is designed to increase transparency and fairness in the way funding is allocated to providers offering free nursery education for three and four-year-olds, by establishing locally driven criteria which are applied on an equitable basis across all providers; including maintained nursery schools, primary schools, private, voluntary and independent providers. The Department encourages providers to engage in a constructive dialogue with local authorities about the level of funding, and the transparency of the EYSFF supports this.

Many providers up and down the country are offering an outstanding service to parents and their children within existing funding levels. The Government are listening to the views of providers on early years funding; we are keen to work with the sector to reduce administrative burdens on providers.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many private pre-school nursery providers have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opted out of the scheme for free places for three and four year-olds in each local authority in England since September 2010; and how many such places have been lost as a result; [38298]

(2) what the administrative cost was in the case of each local authority in England for the operation of the free places scheme for three and four year-olds in pre-schools and nurseries in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [38299]

Sarah Teather: The Department collects national statistics annually on the take up of free early education for three and four-year-olds. The latest figures show that 95% of three and four-year-olds are benefiting from free provision—an increase of 22,000 three-year-olds and 5,500 four-years-olds, compared with 2009. The Statistical First Release (SFR) 16/2010 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2010" is available at

www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000935/index.shtml

The specific information requested on private pre-school nursery providers is not collected centrally.

Ofsted publish quarterly statistics on numbers of registered childcare providers and places. The statistics are available at national level and by region and local authority for each provider type—child minder, child care on domestic premises and child care on non-domestic premises. The statistics do not separately identify private pre-school nursery providers and do not distinguish between Government funded free places and privately funded places.

The most recent figures published in January 2011 show that, excluding child minders, the total number of childcare providers fell from 28,664 in September 2010 to 28,588 in December 2010, a decline of 106 (0.4%). This followed a drop in the previous quarter of 162 (0.6%). Excluding child minders the total number of childcare places fell from 1,027,868 in September 2010 to 1,024,757m December 2010, a decline of 3,111 (0.3%), compared to a increase in the previous quarter of 2,376 (0.2%).

The full statistics are available at

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Childcare-providers-and-places/Registered-childcare-providers-and-places-in-England-December-2008-onwards

Funding for free early education places for three and four year olds is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which supports the majority of education provision for children aged 3-16. Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, decide how best to distribute funding across their locality, and local authorities set their own local rates of funding to early years providers. The Department does not collect centrally data on the costs incurred by local authorities in administering free early education. Local authorities supply information on expenditure under Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Information is available at

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/financeandfunding/section251

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on support for voluntary and private early years providers for the purposes of increasing diversity of provision in the market. [41438]

Sarah Teather: The Department has had a series of discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) about the provisions of the current Localism Bill. The Bill is intended to increase diversity by giving voluntary and community organisations, and council employees, the right to challenge local authorities to contract out services, such as those delivered by, or through, Sure Start children's centres, if they can do things better, or more cost-effectively.

Pre-school Education: Fees and Charges

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has undertaken an equality impact assessment in respect of his proposal to allow nurseries to charge for places above the 15 hours provided free of charge; [37958]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of child poverty of permitting nursery schools to charge for provision above 15 hours a week. [37865]

Sarah Teather: The impact assessment and equality impact assessment for provisions in the Education Bill are available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/educationbill

The Government remain committed to free early education for all three and four-year-olds, and in September increased the level of free provision to 15 hours per week.

The Childcare Act 2006 gave schools the power, subject to Regulations, to charge for early education in addition to the 15 free hours now provided for three and four-year-olds. The provisions in clause 47 of the Education Bill amend existing legislation governing what costs nursery schools (and schools with nursery classes) can include in determining the charges for additional early education, principally to enable schools to include the costs of permanent teaching staff who provide the early education provision. As such, we do not anticipate that the provisions in the Education Bill will have an impact on levels of child poverty, nor a discriminatory impact. However, by enabling schools to expand their provision, we are giving parents greater choice, in their early education and childcare arrangements, supporting them to work or return to work.

Financial support is available for parents on lower incomes who need more than 15 hours of childcare because of their working patterns. The child care element of working tax credits can cover up to 70% of child care costs.

Pupils: Body Searches

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the risk of teachers being prosecuted or sued as a result of the implementation of the provisions in the Education Bill on searching pupils. [38703]

Mr Gibb: School staff who act in accordance with the law, as drafted in the Bill, will not run any increased risk of being sued or prosecuted. We are not aware of any cases of teachers being prosecuted for using their existing search powers. The new search powers in the Bill are clearer than the existing powers, and will be easier for school staff to follow.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism will be used to allocate the pupil premium to pupils whose family income makes them eligible for free school meals but who have not applied for them. [39707]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 February 2011]:* The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Censuses. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting. We aim to extend the coverage of the pupil premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for free school meals.

It is necessary for the parent to apply for free school meals in order that their eligibility can be confirmed. Only then can they be recorded on the School Census, which will generate the payment. This is why the Secretary of State said in the House on 15 November 2010:

> "....In particular, I would encourage all schools to ensure that those children who are eligible for free school meals take up that offer."

Pupils: Languages

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities were granted an Exceptional Circumstances Grant owing to the number of children with English as an additional language in each of the last three years. [42709]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows the amount of Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) allocated to local authorities in each of the last three years, in relation to increases in the proportion of pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL). The allocations are based on: (i) an increase in the proportion of pupils of compulsory school age with EAL, as recorded in the autumn school census, of any year between 2008 and 2011, of more than 2.5 percentage points over and above the level recorded in the January 2008 school census; (ii) where the January 2008 proportion of pupils of compulsory school age with EAL is below 10%, but increases by more than 2.5 percentage points during the 2008-2011 spending review period. Where a local authority qualifies under (i) it receives £1,600 for each pupil above the threshold. Where an authority qualifies under (ii) it receives a £200,000 lump sum. No local authority met criteria (ii) in 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Allocations for Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) 2008-11

£000

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	
Local Authority	*(i)*	*(i)*	*(i)*	*(ii)*
Barking and Dagenham	292	1,881	3,334	0

Allocations for Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) 2008-11

£000

Local Authority	*2008-09* *(i)*	*2009-10* *(i)*	*2010-11* *(i)*	*2010-11* *(ii)*
Bedford Borough	0	0	52	0
Bexley	0	0	137	200
Blackburn with Darwen	29	132	0	0
Bolton	0	0	32	0
Bournemouth	0	0	179	200
Bristol, City of	0	0	484	0
Bury	0	0	42	0
City of London	19	34	36	0
Coventry	0	655	1,159	0
Croydon	0	0	414	0
Derby	0	0	276	0
Ealing	0	281	1,026	0
Enfield	0	115	1,033	0
Greenwich	0	508	1,640	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	19	0
Harrow	0	655	1,533	0
Havering	0	0	93	200
Hillingdon	0	804	1,939	0
Kingston upon Hull	0	0	336	200
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	392	0
Kirklees	0	0	121	0
Leicester	0	0	431	0
Luton	0	62	655	0
Manchester	0	639	322	0
Merton	0	279	873	0
Middlesbrough	0	0	32	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	1,238	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	106	0
Nottingham	0	172	540	0
Oldham	0	305	786	0
Peterborough	113	979	1,554	0
Portsmouth	0	0	82	200
Reading	0	122	571	0
Redbridge	0	243	1,090	0
Sandwell	0	437	621	0
Slough	0	0	1,394	0
Southampton	0	236	308	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	111	0
Sutton	0	412	884	0
Thurrock	0	0	257	200
Tower Hamlets	0	796	1,091	0
Waltham Forest	0	1,049	1,494	0
Wandsworth	0	0	377	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	89	0
Wokingham	0	0	158	200

Schools: Sports

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding will be allocated to schools for a one day release of a teacher under future school sport partnerships. [36341]

Tim Loughton: The Department is considering this and will notify schools later this year.

Schools: Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people who volunteered and *(b)* hours given by volunteers in maintained schools in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [41972]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the average duration was of the suspension of a teacher from a school pending disciplinary action in academic year 2009-10; and how many teachers were subject to such disciplinary action; [42238]

(2) how many teachers are presently suspended from schools pending the conclusion of disciplinary action; [42239]

(3) in how many cases of disciplinary action commenced against teachers in academic year 2009-10 proceedings were *(a)* withdrawn, *(b)* concluded with a finding of no wrongdoing by a teacher and *(c)* concluded with a finding of no case to answer. [42240]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: The operation of disciplinary procedures in schools, including those that result in suspension, is a matter for schools' governing bodies and local authorities in their roles as employers. Accordingly the information requested about the suspension of teaching staff is not held centrally.

Teachers: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of active members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme earn *(a)* between £10,000 and £15,000, *(b)* between £15,000 and £20,000, *(c)* between £20,000 and £25,000, *(d)* between £25,000 and £30,000 and *(e)* £30,000 and more; [40378]

(2) what proportion of members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme are *(a)* (i) part time and (ii) full time, *(b)* (A) male and (B) female and *(c)* (i) active members and (ii) deferred members/pensioners. [40279]

(3) what proportion of *(a)* active and *(b)* deferred members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme are aged between (i) 20 and 30, (ii) 31 and 40, (iii) 41 and 50, (iv) 51 and 55 and (v) 56 and 65. [40272]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold data in the way requested. The following tables do, however, provide the data the Department does hold and which were provided to the Independent Commission into Public Sector Pensions. Consequently some of the data groupings do not precisely match those requested.

Calculation of benefits under the Teachers' Pension Scheme is based on a full-time equivalent salary, rather than actual earnings. The tables therefore report salary data on that basis.

Pensionable annual earnings (£)	*Active members*	
	Male	*Female*
0-11,999	148	260
12,000-14,999	339	741
15,000-17,999	1,795	4,689
18,000-20,999	6,085	19,784
21,000-23,999	9,106	25,724
24,000-26,999	13,041	39,051
27,000-29,999	11,467	27,365
30,000-32,999	23,072	78,298
33,000-37,399	31,981	104,823
37,400-39,999	20,054	51,201
40,000-44,999	31,388	50,377
45,000-49,999	15,206	21,367
50,000-74,999	21,741	23,206
75,000-99,999	2,232	1,457
100,000 plus	638	[illegible]

	Active members		*Deferred members*	
Age	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
0-19	[1]24,082	[1]80,797	[1]5,385	[1]15,270
20-29	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
30-39	48,042	120,502	18,142	55,760
40-49	50,306	111,612	26,446	58,631
50-54	28,721	65,633	17,121	35,879
55-59	28,086	57,754	21,507	45,781
60-64	8,400	11,653	11,154	20,299
65-69	634	738	6,468	14,314

[1] Indicates a brace.

Active member	*Female*	*Male*
Full time	310,319	163,046
Part time	138,410	25,247

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the administration costs of the Teachers' Pension Scheme are for 2010-11; and what the costs were in each of the last 12 years. [40393]

Mr Gibb: Following a competitive tendering exercise, a seven-year contract for the administration of the Teachers' Pension Scheme was let in 1996. The contract value was £70 million. The administrative service was re-tendered at the end of the first contract period and a new seven-year contract was let in October 2003. The total expenditure on the administration of the scheme between the financial years 2003-04 and 2009-10 was £65 million, as noted below. The expenditure in 2010-11 is anticipated to be £9.8 million.

Financial year	*Contract costs (£ million)*
2003-04	8.9
2004-05	8.6
2005-06	9.0
2006-07	9.4
2007-08	9.5
2008-09	9.9
2009-10	9.6

Young People: Unemployment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people normally resident in Coventry South constituency were not in education, employment or training on the most recent date for which figures are available. [41426]

Mr Gibb: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for young people aged 16 to 18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

These estimates cannot be broken down to local authority level. However, Connexions Services collect information on the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each local authority area in England. These are published annually on the DFE website and the latest data for the end of 2009 are at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/participation/neet/a0064101/strategies-for-16-to-18-year-olds-not-in-education-employment-or-training-neet

These data estimate that 740 (6.9%) 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment or training in Coventry at the end of 2009. The figures cannot be broken down by Parliamentary constituency.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable housing units he expects to be completed in the London Borough of Newham in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [45101]

Grant Shapps: The latest official statistics on new affordable homes delivered in the first six months of 2010-11 by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) are published at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/statistics

The Department does not forecast levels of future house building, and delivery will be determined by local housing plans. In the spending review we announced investment of over £6.5 billion in housing. This includes over £2 billion to make existing social homes decent and almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver as many homes as possible through our investment and reforms. DCLG and the HCA issued the Framework for the Affordable Homes Programme from 2011 to 2015, including the affordable rent product, on14 February 2011.

The New Homes Bonus final scheme design was published on 17 February. Commencing in April 2011, the bonus will provide additional financial incentives for providing more affordable homes by match funding the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, with a premium for affordable homes, for the following six years. We have set aside almost £1 billion over the comprehensive spending review period for the scheme.

Government Procurement Card Scheme

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities participate in the Government Procurement Card scheme. [43780]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

A list of local authorities who participated in the Government Procurement Card scheme for the year 2010 has been placed in the Library.

Homelessness: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households presented themselves as homeless to the London Borough of Newham in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [44965]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows the total number of decisions made by the London borough of Newham in 2009 and 2010 on applications from households eligible for assistance under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts. This includes all eligible households found to be in priority need and unintentionally homeless (acceptances); those in priority need but intentionally homeless; those not in priority need and those found to be not homeless.

Total number of decisions made by the London borough of Newham under the 1985 and 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households, 2009 Q1 to 2010 Q4

Quarter	*Total decisions*
2009	
January to March	112
April to June	118
July to September	159
October to December	150
2010	
January to March	151
April to June	158
July to September	129
October to December	163

Source:
Quarterly P1E returns

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data are published in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available in the House of Commons Library or via the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Housing: Construction

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on measures to protect grade 2 agricultural land from residential development. [44595]

Robert Neill: We have announced a review of planning policy, designed to streamline existing policy statements into a single consolidated National Planning Policy Framework. We will look at the requirements relating to the protection of agricultural land as part of this process. We are considering the responses received to our invitation for suggestions on the priorities and policies we might adopt to produce a shorter, more decentralised and less bureaucratic National Planning Policy Framework, with a view to going out to consultation on a draft of the framework later in the summer.

The coalition agreement states that the Government will maintain the green belt, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other environmental protections, and also create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Local Government Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of his

Department's plans for local authority funding on private sector companies which hold contracts with the public sector. [44908]

Robert Neill: It is for local authorities to decide on commissioning and paying private sector companies, but we would expect councils to look for service providers who can offer high quality services at best value for the taxpayer—and that that this will include commissioning services from the private sector and the voluntary and community sector.

As part of the Government's transparency agenda, local authorities are now expected to publish information on all new tenders and contracts over £500. This, together with the £500 spend information that local authorities are now publishing, will allow people to see local authority contract spending with private sector companies and the voluntary and community sector.

Local Government Funding

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding Faithwise Ltd has received from his Department's Prevent funding allocation to local authorities since the programme's inception. [43865]

Andrew Stunell: From 2008 onwards, the Department funded local authorities to undertake Prevent work. This was funded by Area Based Grant which was not ring-fenced. The last Government did not require local authorities to inform Government Departments of their local funding decisions on Prevent.

We note the criticism of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee in March 2010 over the monitoring and evaluation of the Prevent programme.

My Department is currently developing a new approach to promote integration and participation.

Planning

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism he proposes for the resolution of a dispute over a planning issue between a county council and a borough council under his legislative proposals for the planning system. [45241]

Robert Neill: All local authorities are statutory consultees for planning decisions so county councils must consult district or neighbouring councils affected by minerals or waste planning decisions. Similarly, district or national park authorities must consult counties where they are affected by other planning decisions. In addition the Localism Bill includes a duty to cooperate when drawing up local plans which will apply to all local authorities.

Regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 835W, and of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 355W, on regeneration: Newcastle upon Tyne, what recent progress he has made in his meetings on delivering a sustainable long-term future for the Byker estate. [44919]

Grant Shapps: I am pleased to be able to support Newcastle city council's proposals to transfer the Byker estate to a tenant-led housing trust with the aim of delivering a sustainable long-term future for the estate. I would also like to commend the local residents who have campaigned tirelessly for the control of their neighbourhood.

PRIME MINISTER

Government Departments: Business Plans

Stella Creasy: To ask the Prime Minister which Secretaries of State he has met to discuss *(a)* implementation of the departmental business plans and *(b)* instances when actions stated in such plans as due for completion have not been completed by the due date since November 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place. [45355]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings with Secretaries of State to discuss progress including the implementation of areas in the departmental business plans. Updates are published on a monthly basis and can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Attorney-General if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for the Law Officers' Departments that *(a)* was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and *(b)* complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 to date. [45042]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Treasury Solicitors department are the only Law Officers Departments which provide catering services to staff. Neither department sources or procures food directly. This task is undertaken by contracted catering service providers.

The caterers used by TSol have confirmed their commitment of working only with suppliers that focus on sustainable fishing practices and promote the consumption of seasonal and sustainable fish resources. It is not possible to confirm purchasing practice regarding the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) list, but there have been no recorded instances of species cited as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature red list having been purchased.

The CPS service provider operates a policy of not using seafood that is on the MCS list of fish to avoid whenever an alternative product can be sourced. In 2010 only 1.75% of the seafood purchased on behalf of the CPS was on the MCS's list of fish to avoid. The figure for 2011 was 2.25% as of 28 February 2011.

Information is not recorded on the proportion of seafood purchased for CPS that complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the MCS's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General what regulations the Law Officers Departments revoked between 1 February 2011 and 28 February 2011. [45985]

The Solicitor-General: None.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Government Departments: Business Plans

Stella Creasy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which Secretaries of State he has met to discuss *(a)* implementation of the departmental business plans and *(b)* instances when actions stated in such plans as due for completion have not been completed by the due date since November 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place. [45356]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have frequent meetings with Secretaries of States to discuss progress including the implementation of areas in the departmental business plan. I am also, with the Prime Minister, briefed regularly by the Chief Secretary and/or the Minister for Government Policy on policy implementation.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 728W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what discussions he has had with representatives of the International Committee for the Red Cross in Afghanistan on the recording of civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan as a result of *(a)* ISAF and *(b)* Taliban operations; and if he will make a statement. [44516]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence has regular meetings with the International Committee of the Red Cross to discuss operations in Afghanistan. We respect the confidentiality of these discussions.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to take a decision on which aircraft carrier to fit with cats and traps. [45336]

Peter Luff: Our investigations into the conversion of the Queen Elizabeth class are ongoing. We currently expect to take firm decisions on which carrier should be converted, the launch and recovery equipment to be fitted, and the overall conversion strategy in late 2012.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 815-22W, on armed forces (redundancies), to which Minister in his Department the section which was responsible for sending the 38 emails reports. [42842]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 February 2011]:* As Secretary of State I have ultimate responsibility for the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed forces personnel on maternity leave are exempt from redundancy. [44840]

Mr Robathan: Those who volunteer for redundancy while on or due to go on maternity leave will be considered alongside all other volunteers and maternity leave will not prevent their selection. Non-volunteers who are selected for compulsory redundancy will be given 12 months' notice of discharge. Any non-volunteer who will be on maternity leave at the expected date of discharge will be re-considered on a case-by-case basis, as legal protection may apply. Current or previous maternity leave will not be a selection criterion.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what categories of personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force are to be exempt from consideration for redundancy under his Department's redundancy programme. [45249]

Mr Robathan: Those engaged in combat operations for which they are in receipt of operational allowance, are within six months of deploying on or are recovering from those operations, for example on post-operational leave, rest and recuperation, or those recovering from injuries, on the day when the redundancy notices are issued will not be made redundant unless they have volunteered for redundancy.

Each of the services may define selection criteria based upon their own needs but these would not be considered as exemptions.

Defence Vetting Agency: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential savings resulting from reductions in personnel numbers at the Defence Vetting Agency in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [43979]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 477W, to the hon. Member for York Central (Hugh Bayley). In line with other areas of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) is currently examining what reductions can sensibly be made as a result of the strategic defence and security review and the spending review. The outcomes of the both of these are being developed through the MOD's annual planning round. This is expected to conclude in spring 2011. The final decisions on funding for the DVA will ensure that MOD can continue to provide an effective level of security vetting for its staff and contractors.

Departmental Assets

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he plans to take to maximise revenue to the public purse from future sales of parts of his Department's estate; [45214]

(2) what plans he has for sale of land and assets of his Department's estate occupied by each of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [45215]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements. Surplus assets are disposed of as quickly as possible in accordance with Treasury Guidelines (Managing Public Money Annex 4.8). Each of the armed forces is currently identifying estate rationalisation opportunities reflecting the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the outcome will be known later this year.

Assuming there is no interest from other Government Departments or former owners, surplus MOD land and property is usually advertised for sale by open competition to achieve the best price (i.e. market value). Development potential of surplus land is first considered in consultation with the local planning authority and other stakeholders.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45027]

Peter Luff: There is no business requirement to centrally hold details about the quantity of seafood procured by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), its agencies and non-departmental public bodies and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the MOD's policy is to purchase only seafood from sustainable sources and our fish suppliers must comply with the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat, those certified by the Marine Stewardship Council or from stocks that meet the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

European Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Typhoon aircraft to achieve full ground attack capability. [45006]

Peter Luff: Typhoon ground attack capability was achieved for the Tranche One aircraft in July 2008. A programme to integrate ground attack capability onto Tranches Two and Three aircraft from 2012 is also under way. Further weapon upgrades are under consideration to enable Typhoon to employ a greater variety of air-to-ground munitions in future.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times cannibalisations of Typhoon aircraft occurred due to a parts supply shortage arising from a collaborative arrangement with partner nations in each of the last four years. [45009]

Peter Luff: Provision of parts for Typhoon is managed through a range of international and national supply chain contracts.

Cannibalisation is where one aircraft benefits from the removal of serviceable parts from another. It is a routine and temporary measure to ensure that the maximum number of aircraft is available for front-line duty. No record is made of the reason the part cannibalised was not available.

Harrier Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the US Government on the sale of Harrier jets; and if he will estimate the per unit value of such aircraft. [45004]

Peter Luff: The Secretary of State for Defence has had no discussions with the US Government about the future of the Harrier aircraft. It is too early to say what the final disposal arrangements will be or to provide an indication of the unit value of the aircraft.

RFA Largs Bay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* Australia and *(b)* Chile on the purchase by those countries of RFA Largs Bay. [45005]

Peter Luff: During his visit to Australia in January 2011, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, discussed the future of RFA Largs Bay with his Australian counterpart during discussions that covered a number of defence related matters. In addition, officials from a number of governments, including Australia and Chile, recently visited the ship as part of an ongoing competition being carried out to offer RFA Largs Bay to another government.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bankruptcy: Suffolk

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been declared bankrupt in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [45845]

Mr Davey: The number of bankruptcies in Suffolk for each year 2000-09 is shown in the following table.

Figures prior to 2000 are not available on this basis. Regional insolvency figures are compiled annually, therefore data for 2010 will not be available until summer 2011.

Bankruptcies in Suffolk[1]

	Number
2000	280
2001	341

Bankruptcies in Suffolk[1]

	Number
2002	377
2003	473
2004	539
2005	677
2006	938
2007	940
2008	1,042
2009	1,087

[1] Where bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (from 87.6% in 2000 rising to 97.1% in 2009).

Business: Government Assistance

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of guarantees *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme since October 2010. [45464]

Mr Prisk: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 2 March 2011, over 13,800 businesses have been offered loans with a value of almost £1.4 billion, of which over 12,000 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £1.2 billion.

The Department plays no role in the application or decision making process. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the accredited participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including an Enterprise Finance Guarantee backed loan, is appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

A Government Guarantee of up to 75% of the outstanding balance of the loan is payable to the lender in the event that a business defaults on its loan repayments.

Community Interest Companies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many community interest companies were registered in each region in each of the last 10 years. [44767]

Mr Davey: The community interest companies (CICs) were introduced in 2005. The following table covers from this period only.

The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies holds information on the net increase to the public register each year, i.e. after dissolutions and conversions to charities have been taken out and the table reflects this.

Regions	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	*Total*
East of England	11	65	60	83	82	86	387
East Midlands	10	46	56	56	33	68	269
London	47	97	142	199	117	115	717
North East	21	69	76	66	61	88	381
North West	13	77	90	162	165	212	719
South East	31	96	99	123	111	173	633
South West	23	80	71	105	99	160	538
West Midlands	13	34	60	104	114	167	492
Yorkshire	22	37	56	69	37	57	278
Northern Ireland	—	—	3	14	16	24	57
Scotland	9	20	40	28	54	51	202
Wales	8	16	23	25	28	27	127
Totals	208	637	776	1034	917	1228	4800

Note:
This information is correct as at 28 February 2011

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43298]

Mr Davey: The Department adheres wherever possible to the five key objectives of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) and the Department will comply with any additional standards to improve the sustainability of food procurement.

The Department's contracted catering and conference supplier Baxterstorey is accredited to the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme and is fully compliant, demonstrating robust support for enhanced animal welfare, environmental responsibility, quality produce and supporting British producers. All eggs used on the departmental estate are British, Lion Brand standard and free range.

Employment Schemes

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what criteria will be used to determine whether successful employment has been secured as a result of education or training under the job outcome payment scheme; [44544]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of learners who will participate in the job outcome scheme pilots in the academic year 2011-12; [44545]

(3) whether learners referred to further education colleges as part of the skills conditionality scheme will be included in the assessment of the job outcome payment scheme pilots in the academic year 2011-12. [44546]

Mr Hayes: As set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth"[1] on 16 November 2010 the total Skills Funding Agency programme budget will be £3.4 billion in 2011-12 financial year.

As a part of the spending review tough decisions about departmental budgets have been taken and, like all other areas further education has made its contribution. We have had some difficult choices but we will prioritise funding support for learners with very low levels of skills and unemployed people actively seeking work who are recipients of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) or employment support allowance (work related activity group; ESA (WRAG)) so that we can prepare them for work.

It is not for us to attempt to plan the delivery of further education and skills from the top down. Instead our simplification agenda will give colleges and training organisations the freedoms and flexibilities to respond to local need, giving Jobcentre Plus and employers a key role in shaping the volume and content of further education and skills provision. We expect that the availability of fee remission for those on JSA or ESA (WRAG) will make them an attractive client group for colleges and training organisations. In addition we are piloting an approach to give colleges and training organisations a financial incentive for helping learners who are unemployed through the piloting of new job outcome payments for further education colleges and training organisations.

We do not hold data relating to the questions that the hon. Member has asked about the Job Outcome Incentive pilots that will operate in the academic year 2011/12 centrally and so I have asked the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency to write to the hon. Member to provide the details already agreed regarding the operation of the pilots.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 7 March 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary questions addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in which you asked:

1. What criteria will be used to determine whether successful employment has been secured as a result of education or training under the job outcome payment scheme (PQ 2010/4320);

2. What his estimate is of the number of learners who will participate in the job outcome scheme pilots in the academic year 2011-12 (PQ 2010/4321); and

3. Whether learners referred to further education colleges as part of the skills conditionality scheme will be included in the assessment of the job outcome payment scheme pilots in academic year 2011-12 (PQ 2010/4323)

Please be advised job outcome incentive payments will be piloted in the 2011/12 academic year as previously announced. The specific arrangements for how the payments will operate are still to be finally agreed. We expect the agreed process to reflect overall performance at provider level, in the context of local labour market conditions, rather than at the level of the individual learner. We will look to reward colleges and independent training providers for the work they undertake to help move individuals claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and the Employment and Support Allowance (those who fall in the work-ready activity group) into employment. This will include learners who are referred under the skills conditionality regulations.

English Language: Education

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effects of reductions in funding for courses in English as a second or other language on community cohesion in Liverpool. [44583]

Mr Hayes: As part of the spending review tough decisions about departmental budgets have been taken and, like all other areas, further education has made its contribution. This has included reviewing the extent to which automatic fee remission for adult skills is provided, and in this context we have prioritised English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) funding to unemployed people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for people who are settled here. Increased freedoms and flexibilities for providers will allow them to respond to the needs of their communities and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

The Equality Impact Assessment published alongside Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by this Department. I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

Export Credits Guarantees: Democratic Republic of Congo

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department has received any applications for guarantees in respect of explorations in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last 12 months. [45465]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has not received any applications for support of export transactions to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the last five years. ECGD is not able to offer any cover for this market.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department has given guarantees to UK companies in respect of oil exploration in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last 12 months. [45466]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has not supported any exports to the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last 20 years. ECGD is not able to offer any cover for this market.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in what paragraphs of the Trade White Paper the role of the Export Credits Guarantee Department in development is addressed. [45162]

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[1] *Note:*

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1272-strategy-investing-in-skills-for-sustainable-growth.pdf

Mr O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The White Paper on Trade and Investment for Growth did not explicitly address the role of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) in development. ECGD pilot schemes announced in the White Paper largely focus on supporting Small and Medium Enterprises in the UK. DFID will continue to fully engage with the ECGD by providing case-by-case assessments of these and ongoing ECGD transactions where they relate to the poorest countries. This practice is in line with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines and ensures that ECGD-backed lending supports the financial future and long-term prospects of developing countries.

Gulf Region

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which officials of his Department accompanied the Prime Minister on his recent visit to the Gulf region. [45612]

Mr Prisk: A press officer and three other UK Trade and Investment officials accompanied the Prime Minister, my noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for trade and investment (Lord Green) and the business delegation on the recent visit to the Gulf region.

Public Sector: Homeworking

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on encouraging telecommuting in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [39194]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

Telecommuting is one form of flexible working, which is a delegated matter across the public sector. Government Departments and individual organisations that make up the public sector have responsibility for developing their own approaches to telecommuting as part of their flexible working policies.

Cabinet Office supports measures to improve work/life balance, which include flexible working. Flexible working incorporates a wide variety of working patterns and other arrangements such as home working. Where appropriate, the Department supports those working away from the office with Information Communications Technology to facilitate flexible working arrangements.

More widely, the Government are committed to offering flexible working options, including telecommuting where appropriate, to their employees. In addition, the coalition agreement outlines a commitment to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees which is being taken forward by the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Services, and has my support.

Royal Mail

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the decision by Royal Mail to introduce an annual charge for customers of its collect service. [45582]

Mr Davey: I have received no representations. Pricing structures of unregulated services are a matter for Royal Mail.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on its decision to introduce an annual charge to customers using its collect service. [45583]

Mr Davey: I have not discussed this issue with Royal Mail. Pricing structures of unregulated services are a matter for Royal Mail.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with groups representing small businesses on the decision of Royal Mail to introduce an annual charge for customers using its collect service. [45584]

Mr Davey: I have received no representations nor held any discussions with groups representing small businesses on this issue. Pricing structures of unregulated services are a matter for Royal Mail.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: British Nationals Abroad

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the safety of UK nationals in Bahrain. [44826]

Alistair Burt: The safety and security of UK nationals overseas is paramount. Our embassy in Bahrain is closely monitoring the security situation in that country, including how it might affect the safety of UK nationals. This situation is reflected in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Bahrain.

Updates are provided regularly to UK nationals in the country via the embassy webpage, Facebook site and Locate registration system. An advertisement has been placed in local English newspapers to encourage UK nationals to use these channels.

We also regularly review our contingency planning so it is as ready as possible to respond should a crisis escalate.

BBC World Service: Middle East and North Africa

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work of the BBC World Service in supporting his Department's objectives in *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Tunisia, *(c)* Yemen and *(d)* Jordan. [41941]

Mr Jeremy Browne *[holding answer 28 February 2011]*: The BBC World Service has editorial independence, but, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has said, they:

> "play an invaluable role promoting British values overseas, reaching millions of people in the process. Their work helps maintain our country's reputation for openness, transparency and liberty...".

The BBC World Service has provided in-depth and balanced reporting of the events in the region, and has reported that there has been a large increase in its audiences for BBC Arabic. For example, its streamed TV coverage on the BBC Arabic website has had a 60% increase in viewing figures. Its network of reporters and stringers has been feeding coverage in Arabic and English.

We do not undertake assessments on a permanent and on-going basis of the effectiveness of the BBC's World Service in these countries. The next opportunity to do so will therefore be in our annual survey of heads of mission on the impact and effectiveness of the World Service in the countries to which they are accredited.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's full-time equivalent headcount working in each multilateral organisation in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [40128]

Mr Hague: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff taking up attachments with multilateral organisations do so on unpaid leave terms. Since they are not counted as FCO employees while on these secondments, we do not keep central records of their locations. Details of who has been seconded and to which organisation are not held centrally and to obtain them would incur disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Relations

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the practice of his Department is in issuing *(a)* multiple identities and *(b)* false passports to members of diplomatic missions; and if he will make a statement. [45659]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-645.

Gaza: Defence Equipment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the firing of an advanced rocket from Gaza into Beersheba, Israel on 23 February 2011; and if he will make a statement. [43820]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports that Hamas continues to acquire and test a variety of weapons. We have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas, and other Palestinian Rejectionist Groups, is unacceptable.

We place great importance on the protection of Israel's legitimate security needs. We continue to underline the need for Hamas to end rocket attacks on Israel. We call on them to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and unconditionally to release Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for over four years.

Iran: Olympic Games 2012

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the likely participation of Iran in the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [45593]

Alistair Burt: The International Olympic Committee is responsible for inviting member National Olympic Committees to take part in the London 2012 Games. We currently have no information on proposed attendance by any countries.

Iran: Politics and Government

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on proposals for the UN Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution to enable the creation of a mechanism to monitor the situation of the Bahá'i community in Iran. [45452]

Alistair Burt: The UK remains concerned by the ongoing persecution of the Bahá'i faith in Iran. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and I continue to raise these concerns regularly with the Iranian embassy in London, most recently on 17 February 2011. Meanwhile, the UK is actively supporting the proposal to establish a Special Rapporteur on Iran at the Human Rights Council. Such a Rapporteur would report on the full range of abuses in Iran, including those relating to minority rights.

Israel: EU External Relations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 716W, on Israel: EU external relations, whether he has received legal advice on the Israeli government's compliance with the human rights provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. [42948]

Alistair Burt: The EU-Israel Association Agreement was discussed at the EU Israel Association Council meeting on 22 February 2011. The Council's statement makes clear in paragraphs 24-26 the importance it places on Israel complying with the human rights provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement:

> "The EU welcomes the opportunity of a regular dialogue with the Israeli side on human rights issues of common concern, including the protection of the Palestinian population, respect for the Convention of the Rights of the Child, children affected by armed conflicts, the promotion of democracy, rule of law and respect for international humanitarian law, including in the context of the relevant informal working groups. The EU reiterates its call on Israel to establish a subcommittee on human rights, within the framework of the Association Agreement."

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not sought specific legal advice on the Israeli Government's compliance with its human rights obligations under the Association Agreement as these are assessed in the European External Action Service's (EEAS) annual progress reports. In producing this report the EEAS conducts an analysis of the Israeli Government's compliance with the human rights provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

Libya: Diplomatic Relations

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he received from the Law Officers' departments prior to authorising the diplomatic mission to eastern Libya. [45653]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45. By long-standing convention, observed by successive Governments, the fact of, and substance of the advice from, the law officers of the Crown is not disclosed outside Government.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations the diplomatic mission to eastern Libya had planned to meet; and what the circumstances were that gave rise to their arrest and detention. [45654]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons members of the diplomatic mission to eastern Libya were issued with *(a)* multiple identities and *(b)* false passports. [45655]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the House on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria he plans to use to determine which parents will be exempt from proposed charges for Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission services; and what estimate he has made of the number of parents who will qualify. [38720]

Maria Miller: On 13 January 2011 the Government launched 'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance'. This consultation document sets out the changes that we propose to make to the child maintenance system to increase its effectiveness for all families and seeks views to inform our thinking as we outline the way forward.

At present only half of children living in families where parents have separated are supported with effective financial maintenance arrangements. The proposed charges are to enable more parents to take responsibility and to make effective maintenance arrangements. The proposals are based on the recommendations of Sir David Henshaw's 2006 review 'Recovering child support: routes to responsibility'. The Government recognise the specific circumstances of victims of domestic violence, and it is proposed that these clients will be exempt from the application charge. Additionally, for parents on prescribed benefits, there will be reduced charges. The consultation also puts forward the option of fast-tracking other vulnerable families through the gateway and on to the statutory system.

The Government will develop detailed proposals in relation to these criteria and these will be outlined in draft regulations later in the year. The impact assessments accompanying the draft regulations will set out the estimated impacts on volumes and individuals who will be affected by the proposed new charges.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the *(a)* range and *(b)* maximum amount payable to an individual in council tax benefit. [45129]

Steve Webb: Anyone who is liable for council tax may make a claim for council tax benefit. Depending on circumstances, they may be entitled to receive council tax benefit of £0.01 a week up to a maximum of their full council tax liability.

Crisis Loans: Domestic Appliances

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons he proposes to end the payment of social fund crisis loans for items such as cookers and beds; and which items will no longer qualify for such loans. [45645]

Steve Webb: As outlined in my written ministerial statement of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-46WS, we have had to take urgent action to bring spending on crisis loans back under control and ensure we can continue to meet genuine need. Crisis loans will still be available for items in the event of a disaster. They will also be available in an emergency or disaster for living expenses, rent in advance, board and lodging charges, residential charges for hostels, emergency travel when stranded away from home, and the cost of repaying emergency credit on a pre-payment meter.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45041]

Chris Grayling: None of the seafood procured for the Department is on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid. 56% of the seafood procured for the Department complies with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. The percentage is the same for 2010 and 2011 to date

The Department has a private finance initiative contract with Telereal Trillium for the provision of fully-fitted and serviced accommodation. This includes the provision of catering, which is delivered by Eurest, a sub-contractor to Telereal Trillium.

Of the Department's non-departmental public bodies only the Health and Safety Executive procures seafood and is 100% compliant with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, in 2010 and 2011 to date.

Departmental Manpower

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed by *(a)* the National Benefit Fraud Hotline, *(b)* the Fraud Investigation Service and *(c)* Customer Compliance in each of the last five years. [45467]

Chris Grayling: The information in the following table is set out in full-time equivalents and has been rounded to whole numbers. Unfortunately our records only go back as far as 2006-07. These are the latest published data as at September 2010.

	March				September
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2010*
National Benefit Fraud Hotline	40	44	44	41	35
Fraud Investigation Service	3,018	2,872	2,778	2,760	2,764
Customer Compliance	875	911	828	909	922

These data are drawn from internal departmental systems used to monitor staff deployment trends.

Departmental Telephone Services

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department has set for the maximum time taken for calls referred by the National Benefit Fraud Helpline to *(a)* the Fraud Investigation Service and *(b)* Customer Compliance to be (i) allocated to a caseworker and (ii) dealt with and closed. [45534]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not set maximum times for calls referred by the National Benefit Fraud Helpline to be allocated to caseworkers or for fraud investigations or customer compliance actions to be concluded.

Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is entered immediately on to the IT system and then automatically submitted to either the Fraud Investigation Service or Customer Compliance.

Investigators are expected to progress cases without undue delay and investigations are brought to a conclusion as soon as enough evidence is gathered to prove or disprove the allegation made. The time taken to do this will depend on the nature of the allegation and the avenues of enquiries that need to be pursued.

Jobcentre Plus provides guidance to Customer Compliance staff that all referrals should be actioned as soon as possible. This is to ensure that claims are put right as quickly as possible and to limit the amount of any overpayment. This also helps ensure that the intended deterrent effect on the customer is maximised.

Disability Living Allowance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are eligible for disability living allowance; and how many such people he expects to be eligible for his proposed personal independence payment. [45473]

Maria Miller: As at the end of May 2010, 3,157,310 people of all ages were in receipt of disability living allowance. We do not have an estimate of the number of people who may be eligible for disability living allowance. This is because eligibility is not established until entitlement is tested at the point of claim. The assessment of eligibility for disability living allowance is more complex than for other benefits, involving a detailed judgment of personal care and mobility needs.

We will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Support through personal independence payment will be focused on those with the most need. The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility are currently being developed and are being informed by the consultation which recently closed. At this stage it is not possible to provide an assessment of the impact of personal independence payment on existing disability living allowance, or future recipients, although we are working with disabled people and organisations who represent them on the design and delivery of personal independence payment to ensure that disabled people have a clear understanding of its eligibility criteria and claiming process.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* mental health services, *(b)* primary care services and *(c)* employment levels of changes to entitlement for disability living allowance. [45474]

Maria Miller: From 2013 we will replace disability living allowance (DLA) with personal independence payment for new and existing working-age claimants. Personal independence payment will be a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit. Like DLA, personal independence payment will be a non-means-tested, cash benefit which contributes to the extra costs incurred by disabled people as a result of their health condition or impairment.

There is no information available on the number of DLA recipients accessing mental health services or primary care services. However we expect individuals to be accessing the relevant support services, regardless of benefit receipt. We therefore do not expect the reforms to DLA to impact mental health or primary care services.

The employment rate of 16 to 64-year-olds in receipt of DLA is 14%. Evidence suggests that DLA can act as a barrier to work and that receiving it appears to reduce the likelihood of being in employment, even after allowing for the impact of health conditions or impairments. Like DLA, personal independence payment will be available regardless of employment status. By giving people the right level of support through personal independence payment, we hope that many more disabled people will be able to work and enjoy the advantages that an active working life can bring.

The impact assessment for disability living allowance reform considers the impact of DLA reform on health and employment. The impact assessment can be found on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dla-reform-wr2011-ia.pdf

Employment and Support Allowance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason he has laid Statutory Instrument 2011 No. 228 in advance of the publication of reports from the review group led by Professor Malcolm Harrington considering *(a)* mental health conditions and *(b)* fluctuating conditions. [45470]

Chris Grayling: The reason we have done this is to offer greater protection to those undergoing chemotherapy, those in residential rehabilitation and those with particularly severe mental health conditions in the support group.

In addition, we do not believe those who have adapted to their condition should remain in the work related activity group (WRAG) but should be given the support to look for work. Under the current situation, those in wheelchairs automatically go into the WRAG. We do not believe in a "one size fits all approach" given our goal is to move as many people with disabilities into employment.

We believe reviewing and improving the work capability assessment (WCA) is an ongoing process so we have asked Professor Harrington to bring forward his recommendations and all will be in place for the national reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants.

Professor Harrington has been appointed to conduct a second independent review of the WCA and provide further recommendations as appropriate, ensuring continued scrutiny and refinement.

Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from individuals and organisations in the West Midlands on the employment and support allowance work capability assessment. [44909]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of representations received by the Department in the West Midlands specifically about the work capability assessment element of employment and support allowance is not available.

Employment: Disability

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance is available for people with disabilities to move from jobseeker's allowance into paid employment; and if he will make a statement. [45669]

Maria Miller: We are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the same employment opportunities and chances as everyone else to find and stay in paid employment, regardless of their disability or benefit status.

As part of this commitment, the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for a range of employment provision specifically aimed at disabled people, including those receiving jobseeker's allowance (JSA).

> Work Choice, which was launched in October last year, provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.
>
> Access to Work provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people above and beyond what the employer could reasonably provide, to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability and thus stay in work.

In addition, Remploy, an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, delivers a range of employment and development opportunities for disabled people under the Work Choice programme.

The Department for Work and Pensions also funds residential training for unemployed disabled adults whose needs cannot be met through any other government-funded programmes.

From April 2011 the support that Jobcentre Plus delivers to customers across all working age benefits (including JSA) is changing. Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers will have more flexibility to judge which interventions will help disabled customers move towards paid employment in the most cost-effective way ensuring provision is tailored to personal and local labour market needs. To support this, Jobcentre Plus are introducing a suite of measures bringing together communities, the voluntary sector, business people and employers, to help get people back to work.

Jobcentre Plus will continue to work closely with local health services, supported by disability employment advisers and work psychologists.

Later this year, the Work Programme will be introduced which will provide more personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people.

I also commissioned an independent review of the support the Government provides to disabled people who want to work. This review is being conducted by Liz Sayce, chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR, and will report in summer 2011, with recommendations on how existing specialist employment support for disabled people can better serve the Department's wide-ranging customer base.

Incapacity Benefits

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether claimants who were assessed as being entitled to incapacity benefit in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* 6 months will be required to participate in the new reassessment programme; [45019]

(2) whether individuals reaching their state pension age prior to April 2014 will be affected by the incapacity benefit reassessment programme; [45046]

(3) what criteria will be used to decide which incapacity benefit claimants will be required to undergo a work capability assessment in order to determine their future benefit entitlement; [45047]

(4) what mechanism his Department plans to put in place to ensure that individuals who are severely disabled or terminally ill are not required to undergo incapacity benefit reassessment. [45048]

Chris Grayling: We have begun reassessing the benefit entitlement of all old-style incapacity benefits claimants. Those people who are assessed as capable of work will be moved on to jobseekers allowance where eligible. People who are assessed as having limited capability for work will be moved to employment and support allowance. We are reassessing everyone claiming old-style incapacity benefits, regardless of the date of their last incapacity benefit assessment.

We do not believe that it would be right to exclude claimants from the reassessment process as a result of a particular health condition or disability. Many people with health conditions are able to sustain and progress in employment if they are supported to do so. Those people being exempted from the reassessment are those incapacity benefits claimants who will reach retirement age during the reassessment process, as they will shortly be claiming benefits for pensioners.

Those claimants being reassessed need to undergo a work capability assessment (WCA) to allow us to understand their ability to engage in work or work-related activities. The work capability assessment is based on the premise that eligibility for employment and support allowance should not be based on a person's health condition or disability, but rather on the way their health condition or disability limits their functional capability. Therefore, claimants are not automatically exempted from the work capability assessment because they have a particular health condition or disability.

A face-to-face assessment by a trained health care professional is a standard part of the work capability assessment process. However, we recognise that asking claimants to attend an unnecessary face-to-face assessment is in no one's interests. People who unfortunately have a terminal illness do not need to undergo a face-to-face assessment as part of the reassessment of their incapacity benefit. These claimants will automatically be treated as having limited capability for work-related activity, and so will be placed in the support group of employment and support allowance, where they will not be expected to undertake work related activity. Some other claimants may also be exempted from a face-to-face assessment if we are able to make an assessment based purely on the evidence provided.

Terminal illness for these purposes means that a claimant is suffering from a progressive disease, and that death in consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within six months.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents on income support there were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2010 in (i) Coventry, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) nationally. [44910]

Maria Miller: The figures requested are provided in the following table:

	May each year		
	1997	*2005*	*2010*
Great Britain	1,018,400	789,320	679,150
Coventry (local authority)	6,000	5,540	5,030
West midlands	92,300	75,580	68,340

Notes:

1. May 2005 and May 2010 figures are based upon 100% data and have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. May 2007 figures are based upon a 5% sample and have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Pensioners: Personal Savings

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* women and *(b)* men aged 56 years who have no pension savings. [44655]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

(a) The proportion of women aged 56-years-old who have no private pension wealth is estimated to be 40%.

(b) The proportion of men aged 56-years-old who have no private pension wealth is estimated to be 22%.

Notes:

1. We interpreted the question to mean wealth held in private pensions. Private pensions are all pensions that are not state basic retirement or state earnings related. There are nine categories included in the estimates of private pension wealth: defined benefit (DB) pensions, defined contribution (DC) pensions and personal pensions to which the individual was contributing at the time of survey, additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) made to current pensions, retained rights in DB and DC schemes, pension funds from which the individual was drawing an income through income drawdown, pensions in payment and pensions expected in the future based on the contributions of a former spouse. The estimates quoted include those individuals with zero pension wealth. The private pension wealth figures provided here were not immediately available from the Wealth and Assets Survey report, and were obtained by carrying out in-house analysis of the data.

2. The wealth and assets survey (WAS) is a large scale nationally representative longitudinal survey of over 30,000 private households in Great Britain that provides comprehensive information on people's assets and net wealth. The first wave was conducted from July 2006 to June 2008. It collected detailed information on financial and non-financial assets, and wealth components such as savings, pensions, property, mortgages and debt as well as people's attitudes and savings behaviour over time.

3. Extensive analysis of pension wealth using the wealth and assets data is available in "Wealth in Great Britain 2006/08" at the following web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf

Source:

Wealth and assets survey 2006/08.

Pensions: Poverty

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce pensioner poverty. [45051]

Steve Webb: The Government have restored the earnings link for the basic state pension and given a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, price increases (as measured by the consumer prices index) or 2.5%. It is estimated that the average person retiring on a full basic state pension in April 2011 will receive £15,000 more in basic state pension income over their retirement than they would have done under the old prices link.

The restoration of the earnings link and the triple guarantee will benefit both existing and future pensioners by providing a more generous state pension, giving a solid financial foundation from the state, which is essential as part of the pensions system.

In April 2011 it is proposed that the basic state pension will increase by 4.6%, in line with the retail prices index, to fulfil a commitment made at the Budget. After that the triple guarantee will apply.

This Government are protecting key benefits for pensioners. Free eye tests; free prescription charges; free bus passes; free television licences for the over 75s; and winter fuel payments will remain exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government. We have also made the temporary increase in the cold weather payment to £25 permanent.

We are introducing automatic enrolment into workplace pensions from 2012. This is a central element of our strategy to reinvigorate private pension savings and aims to harness inertia and bring about a change in people's behaviour in saving for retirement. We expect this to radically increase the number of people saving into a pension and to lead to between 5 million and 8 million people newly saving or saving more in all forms of workplace pension schemes.

We are conducting a research study to help build the evidence base on how the information that we routinely collect can be used more effectively to ensure pensioners get the help that is available through pension credit. This is a longer term aspiration and the study is a first step in seeing if this type of approach might be possible.

Personal Independence Payment: Autism

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what representations he has received from autism experts on the assessment process for his proposed personal independence payment; [45471]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the needs of people with autism are taken into account when designing the assessment procedure for his proposed personal independence payment. [45472]

Maria Miller: The assessment is being developed in collaboration with an independent group of specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. Its membership encompasses a wide variety of relevant expertise and reflects a broad range of experience in the needs of disabled people. As well as representatives from RADAR and Equality 2025, the group includes individuals from professions such as occupational therapy, psychiatry, physiotherapy, social work, general practice and community psychiatric nursing. This approach ensures that the initial development work is being undertaken within a holistic view of the impact of disability.

This group is currently undertaking the early design work on the assessment criteria. Once the broad principles are in place, we will work with the assessment group, disabled people and their organisations on refinement and testing. We know it is essential that the assessment accurately captures the needs of disabled people with autistic spectrum disorders and this is something that the development group is considering. We are still considering the delivery model for the assessment and no decisions have yet been taken. We recognise the importance of providing adequate training and guidance for assessors and of ensuring that the assessment process is appropriate to individual's circumstances, including individuals with autistic spectrum disorders.

During the public consultation on DLA reform, we received responses from a number of disability organisations representing autistic spectrum disorders. Both I and departmental officials have also met with the National Autistic Society to discuss our reform proposals and to seek their views on how the new benefit can best support those with autism. We agree with many of the points raised in the National Autistic Society's recent report on DLA reform, 'Who benefits?', and we are looking closely at how these recommendations can be incorporated into its design. We will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to support people with autism who lose their eligibility for *(a)* his proposed personal independence payment and *(b)* disability living allowance. [45475]

Maria Miller: From 2013 we will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Support through personal independence payment will be focussed on those with the most need. The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility are currently being developed and are being informed by the consultation which recently closed. I am, therefore, unable at this time to comment on how the new assessment will work or make estimates of its impact on people with specific health conditions or impairments. However, we are committed to ensuring that it reflects the needs of all individuals effectively. We recognise that the current assessment criteria for disability living allowance can favour physical impairments and does not always fully reflect the needs of disabled people with mental, intellectual, cognitive and development impairments, including autistic spectrum disorders.

The Department remains committed to supporting the life chances of people with autism. They will continue to benefit from the delivery of more flexible services across government for people facing complex barriers; through the introduction of the universal credit; and through the Work programme and Work Choice.

Post Office Card Account: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Livingston constituency have a Post Office card account. [45586]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested as data held relate to benefit accounts rather than people. Customers may be in receipt of more than one benefit, pension or allowance which could be paid into one Post Office card account.

As at September 2010, the number of benefit and pension accounts being paid into a Post Office card account in Livingston constituency was 6,860.

Poverty: Disability

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of poverty of people with disabilities of the proposed removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from those living in residential care homes. [37748]

Maria Miller: We are unable to provide an assessment of the effect on levels of poverty of the proposed removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from those living in residential care homes. Information concerning levels of poverty is derived from the family resources survey. In common with other social surveys, it surveys private households and therefore excludes those in care homes.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people re-claimed *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* income support and *(c)* severe disablement allowance as a result of linking rules in each quarter since 1999. [37194]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available. This is because established management information systems that the Department uses for statistical analysis do not have any readily available and reliable indicators of use of linking rules. Estimates could be made by linking datasets over time and doing complex analysis, but this would incur disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Pay Methods

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will provide additional support to pensioners and other vulnerable customers to assist them in the change to their means of benefit collection from bank giro to collection via Paypoints; [45362]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on pensioners of ending the bank giro contract with the Post Office. [45363]

Steve Webb: No customer will be transferred to the new service until they have had an opportunity to discuss the move with an adviser and we are satisfied that they have all the information they need.

The Department has been writing to customers for the last three years preparing them for the phased transfer to the new service. There will be additional support for those customers who require it, to ensure that their needs continue to be met, which for some may include switching to the Post Office card account.

Only 60,000 pensioners rely on cheques for all their payments. Throughout the UK there are fewer than 250,000 who rely only on cheque payments and this number is declining steadily.

The new service has been designed specifically for those people who are unable to make use of mainstream accounts. For those unable to use a bank account or the Post Office card account, the new service should work in much the same way for customers as cheques do now—they will still go to a convenient, local outlet to collect their cash. And we are satisfied that it will provide the same flexibility required for use by those who rely on someone else to collect their money for them.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of providing the successor to the Green Giro service through Citibank and Paypoint in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [45539]

Chris Grayling: The total cost to the public purse is estimated to be in the region of £20 million per year, dependant on volumes and when the services are fully implemented. Over the SR2010 period we expect that total costs will be between £40 million and £55 million.

For comparison, the current cheque service costs the Department around £30 million a year. The new service will therefore save the taxpayer around £10 million a year in administrative costs, plus another £5 million a year from eliminating cheque fraud and abuse.

Universal Credit

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what strategy he plans to use to migrate individuals to universal credit. [45135]

Chris Grayling: The current intention and provisional timetable is that transition to universal credit will take place between October 2013 and October 2017. The transition planning will include all new claims for out of work support, all new claims for in-work support and migration of existing caseloads. The order in which new claims and existing caseloads will be transitioned will be informed by considering all the evidence and a full option appraisal.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he expects to introduce further primary legislation on welfare reform following the implementation of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [44995]

Chris Grayling: No decisions have been made on whether the Government will introduce further primary legislation on welfare reform. This would be announced in the Queen's Speech.

Work Capability Assessment

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what bonuses are payable by Atos assessors in respect of their performance in undertaking work capability assessments; and if he will make a statement. [44681]

Chris Grayling: The health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare to conduct medical assessments on behalf of the Department do not receive bonuses related to the outcome of entitlement to benefit. The health care professional provides relevant reports to DWP Decision Makers who award or disallow benefit, but they play no part in the actual decision making process.

JUSTICE

Assaults on Police: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many assaults on police officers resulted in *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences in the latest period for which figures are available; [44933][1]

(2) how many cautions were issued in each of the last three years for triable offences. [44934]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants sentenced and given an immediate custodial sentence for an assault on a constable at all courts, in England and Wales for 2009 (latest available) is provided in table 1. This is a summary only offence which is charged where little or no physical harm is involved. Where there are more serious injuries this would result in a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and it is not possible to say how many convictions for this offence arise from assaults on police officers.

The number of offenders cautioned for indictable only offences in England and Wales, 2007 to 2009 (latest available) is provided in table 2.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Table 1: Number of defendants sentenced and given an immediate custody for assault on a constable[1] at all courts, England and Wales, 2009[2,3]

Statute	*Offence*	*Sentenced*	*Custodial sentence*	*Other disposals[4]*
Police Act 1996	Assault on a constable	9,201	1,457	7,744

[1] Police Act 1996 s.89(1)—Assault on a constable.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort Is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their Inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Other disposals include: absolute discharge, conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of offenders cautioned1,2 for indictable only offences, England and Wales, 2007-09[3]

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Indictable only	5,371	1,945	1,405

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

Coroners

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average waiting time for an inquest in each coroners' district; [45268]

(2) what the longest waiting time was in each coroners' district for an inquest held in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the reasons were for the time taken in each case; [45269]

(3) how many *(a)* inquests into deaths in custody and *(b)* other inquests requiring a jury are outstanding in each coroners' district; and what the reasons are for the time taken to hold the inquests. [45270]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice collects statistical information on the length of time from death to the completion of inquest in aggregate form by asking coroners to report the number of inquests completed within specified time bands. The estimated average length of time between death and completion of inquest for inquests completed during 2009 for each coroner's district in England and Wales is set out in the table. We do not, however, hold data relating to the length of time taken to complete any individual inquest, so do not have information about the inquest which took the longest time to complete in each coroner district, or why.

The table also sets out the total number of outstanding inquests in each coroner's district as at 31 December 2009. However, we do not collect information on how many of these relate to deaths in custody or require a jury.

The latest published national statistics on the work of coroners relates to 2009 and is available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/coronersannual.htm

Statistics for 2010 are due to be published on 19 May.

Table: Number of inquests ongoing at 31 December 2009, and average time to process completed inquests, in weeks, for each coroner's district for year 2009

Coroner's district	*Average time to process completed inquests (weeks)*	*Number of inquests open at the end of the year*
The Queen's Household	n/a	—
England		
North East		
Durham		
Darlington and South Durham	28	78
North Durham	39	168
Hartlepool	22	18
Northumberland		
North Northumberland	36	99
South Northumberland	18	59
Teesside	34	289
Tyne and Wear		
Gateshead and South Tyneside	15	81
Newcastle Upon Tyne	23	140
North Tyneside	17	74
Sunderland	22	144

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[1] *[Official Report, 29 March 2011, Vol. 526, c. 3MC.]*

Table: Number of inquests ongoing at 31 December 2009, and average time to process completed inquests, in weeks, for each coroner's district for year 2009

Coroner's district	*Average time to process completed inquests (weeks)*	*Number of inquests open at the end of the year*
North West		
Cheshire	27	351
Cumbria		
South and East Cumbria	23	60
North and West Cumbria	38	141
Greater Manchester		
Manchester City	31	378
Manchester North	28	226
Manchester South	29	199
Manchester West	22	244
Lancashire		
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	14	54
Blackpool/Fylde	25	60
East Lancashire	25	58
Preston and West Lancashire	20	122
Merseyside		
Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens	27	130
Liverpool	10	59
Wirral	21	98
Yorkshire and the Humber		
East Riding and Hull	21	88
North Lincolnshire and Grimsby	27	53
York City	29	81
North Yorkshire		
North Yorkshire Eastern District	19	43
North Yorkshire Western District	25	57
South Yorkshire		
South Yorkshire Eastern District	19	187
South Yorkshire Western District	21	139
West Yorkshire		
West Yorkshire Eastern District	33	283
West Yorkshire Western District	30	266
East Midlands		
Derbyshire		
Derby and South Derbyshire	26	133
North Derbyshire	17	99
Leicestershire		
Leicester City and South Leicestershire	37	171
Rutland and North Leicestershire	24	67
Lincolnshire		
Boston and Spalding	21	24
West Lincolnshire	22	81
Spilsby and Louth	20	8
Stamford	25	6
Northamptonshire	9	185
Nottinghamshire	16	122
West Midlands		
Herefordshire	24	54
Shropshire		
Mid and North Shropshire	21	37
South Shropshire	25	22
Staffordshire		
Staffordshire South	26	143
Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire	33	229
Telford and Wrekin	24	33
Warwickshire	16	51
West Midlands (Metropolitan Area)		
Birmingham and Solihull	23	304
Black Country	24	140
Coventry	18	74
Wolverhampton	27	86
Worcestershire	17	97
East of England		
Bedfordshire and Luton	17	57
Cambridgeshire		
North and East Cambridgeshire	20	17
South and West Cambridgeshire	19	39
Essex and Thurrock	44	532
Hertfordshire	20	135
Norfolk		
Great Yarmouth	20	16
Greater Norfolk	19	112
Peterborough	26	53
Southend-on-Sea	27	77
Suffolk	20	80
London		
City of London	47	17
East London	34	259
Inner North London	18	124
Inner South London	25	210
Inner West London	17	123
North London	33	272
South London	26	135
West London	31	252

Table: Number of inquests ongoing at 31 December 2009, and average time to process completed inquests, in weeks, for each coroner's district for year 2009

Coroner's district	*Average time to process completed inquests (weeks)*	*Number of inquests open at the end of the year*
South East		
Berkshire	26	139
Brighton and Hove	13	56
Buckinghamshire	20	44
East Sussex	33	161
Hampshire		
Central Hampshire	29	77
North East Hampshire	12	16
Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	49	301
Southampton and New Forest	17	84
Isle of Wight	33	44
Kent		
Central and South East Kent	36	106
Mid Kent and Medway	27	128
North East Kent	15	66
North West Kent	25	61
Milton Keynes	13	39
Oxfordshire	30	134
Surrey	26	188
West Sussex	20	126
South West		
Avon	34	389
Cornwall	35	225
Devon		
Exeter and Greater Devon	50	246
Plymouth and South West Devon	30	128
Torbay and South Devon	21	48
Dorset		
Bournemouth, Poole and Eastern Dorset	12	37
Western Dorset	19	42
Gloucestershire	42	314
Isles of Scilly	n/a	1
Somerset		
Eastern Somerset	26	73
Western Somerset	20	66
Wiltshire and Swindon	38	258
Wales		
Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys	52	369
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	16	97
Carmarthenshire	20	37
Central North Wales	27	69
Ceredigion	32	5
Gwent	25	37
Neath and Port Talbot	29	34
North East Wales	25	64
North West Wales	27	83
Pembrokeshire	22	24
Powys	48	42
City and County of Swansea	36	152
England and Wales	26	13,813

Notes on how timeliness of inquests is estimated:

1. For the purpose of determining the timeliness of inquests, the time taken to conduct an inquest is deemed to be from the day the death was reported to the coroner until either (a) the day the inquest is concluded by the delivery of a verdict or (b) the day the coroner certifies that an adjourned inquest will not be resumed.

2. The average time for an inquest to be conducted is estimated in the following way: Coroners are asked in their annual return to state how many inquests were concluded within certain time periods. There are five time bands, which are: within one month; 1-3 months; 3-6 months; 6-12 months; and over 12 months. All the inquests falling within a time-band are then assumed to have been completed at or near the mid-point of the various time-bands for the purposes of calculating the average, although inquests within the "under one month" band are assumed to have taken 3 weeks for this purpose of this estimation, and those inquests taking over a year to conclude were deemed to have taken 18 months, although the time-band itself is open-ended. Numbers are then aggregated and the average figure (in weeks) calculated in the normal way.

3. Only deaths occurring within England and Wales are included in the calculation. Statistics are not collected on the time taken for inquests where the death occurred outside England and Wales.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45036]

Mr Blunt: The percentage of seafood procured on behalf of HM Prison Service that are (i) on the Marine Conservation Society's list off fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish speces certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date are listed as follows:

	2010	*2011*
(i) Percentage seafood procured on Marine Conservation List of fish to avoid	0	0
(ii) Percentage seafood procured compliant with sustainability standards indicated by Marine Conservation Society's or Marine Stewardship Council's list of fish to eat	100	100

In 2010 a total of 35.6% of fish procured by HM Prison Service were farmed. In 2011 (to date) a total of 47.7% of fish procured by HM Prison Service has been farmed.

HM Prison Service food purchases account for 99.6% of direct food procurement within the Ministry of Justice, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

All other fish used within *(a)* the Ministry of Justice, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies are procured via a wide range of contracted out catering service providers, a significant number of which have been replaced within the last 12 months and commercial relations with these suppliers have ceased.

As such the information on fish procurement by contracted out catering services could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition of the term domestic violence his Department uses for police and court operational purposes; and which relationships are covered by this term. [44944]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply.

The Government definition of domestic violence is:

> "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".

An adult is defined as any person aged 18 years or over. Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.

For police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) operational purposes, there is not a restriction on the age of the perpetrator or victim.

Under the provisions of the Family Law Act 1996, applicants are defined by their relationship to the respondent as 'associated persons'. Section 62(3) provides an extensive list of associated persons.

Legal Aid

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on administration costs of his proposals to assess in full the eligibility of all legal aid claimants. [45338]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation document 'Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales', published in November 2010, proposed assessing the capital of those in receipt of welfare benefit when assessing whether they are eligible for civil legal aid. Currently those in receipt of certain income based benefits are automatically financially eligible.

Impact assessments were published alongside the consultation paper. The financial eligibility impact assessment concluded that the one-off costs, such as IT and training, are likely to be negligible. The ongoing costs are likely to be offset by the ongoing benefits as a result of a reduction in volumes. The consultation closed on 14 February and we are currently considering the responses received.

Powers of Attorney

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what evidence his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the change in the (i) number of vulnerable people taking out a lasting power of attorney (LPA) and (ii) levels of protection from fraud in respect of LPA since the coming into force of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; [45109]

(2) how many people took out a lasting power of attorney in each year since 2000. [45138]

Mr Djanogly: Lasting powers of attorney (LPA) were introduced on 1 October 2007 following the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and replaced enduring powers of attorney (EPA). Since the MCA has come into force we have seen the volumes of applications for registration as listed in the following table:

	EPAs	*LPAs*
2007-08 (six months)	11,116	9,109
2008-09	20,623	59,244
2009-10	20,053	106,106
2010-11 (estimated)	19,247	169,290

An LPA can only be made by a person with the appropriate mental capacity. The empowering nature of the instrument, and the process of registration mean there is no assessment of whether those making LPAs might be considered vulnerable.

We have recently made an assessment of the trends in applications and predicted the following volumes of applications going forward:

	EPAs and LPAs (total)
2011-12	195,00
2012-13	224,000
2013-14	256,000

The Ministry of Justice recently issued a memorandum to the Justice Select Committee on the operation of the MCA to date, which makes a preliminary assessment of the impact of the Act and the effectiveness of its implementation. The Ministry and the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) will consider what additional evaluation of the Act, and further consideration of how the needs of vulnerable people are being met, would be useful and will take forward future research as appropriate.

With respect to the levels of protection from fraud, LPAs offer greater protection for the customer compared to EPAs. These include the need for registration with the OPG before an LPA can be used and the requirement for an independent person, known as a Certificate Provider, to certify that the customer understands the implications of making the LPA. The customer is also able to choose who should be notified when an application to register is made and these people can object to registration if they have any concerns.

The number of objections made to the Court of Protection in relation to the registration of an EPA or an LPA are shown in the following table. This provides some evidence that the safeguards provided by the MCA are working. The number of objections should also be considered against the backdrop of LPA applications being far higher than EPA applications.

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
EPA objections	391	550	444	219	1604
LPA objections	10	69	79	74	232

The Public Guardian's statutory powers include investigating the actions of attorneys acting under registered enduring and lasting powers of attorney. He may also investigate the actions of deputies who are appointed by the Court of Protection (normally where no EPA or LPA has previously been made).

To provide an indication of the activity in this area, the number of investigations undertaken by the OPG into allegations of abuse is listed in the following table. For completeness we have also included the number of investigations undertaken into deputies.

		Investigations carried out		
	Referrals	*EPA*	*LPA*	*Deputies*
2007-08 (six months)	210	36	0	41
2008-09	727	163	29	115
2009-10	1,053	210	89	191
2010-11 (to date)	2,361	123	149	87
Totals	4,351	532 (43%)	267 (22%)	434 (35%)

Prisoners' Release

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the procedures for the early release of prisoners transferred to the UK to serve the remainder of their sentences; and if he will make a statement. [45163]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans to review the release procedures for those prisoners sentenced abroad who are transferred to England and Wales to continue serving their sentence here.

Prisoners who are transferred to England and Wales to complete their sentence are subject to the normal release and early release provisions governing all prisoners in England and Wales.

The repatriation of prisoners to Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the respective devolved Administration.

Prisons: Industrial Disputes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its associated public bodies have spent on the preparation of contingency plans for potential industrial action by prison staff in the last two years. [45055]

Mr Blunt: In the last two years the National Offender Management Service has undertaken work on contingency planning for industrial action as part of a wider range of duties. The cost of this work cannot be disaggregated from other costs.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its associated public bodies have spent on training of army personnel to undertake prison officer duties as part of contingency plans for potential industrial action by prison staff in the last two years. [45056]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans to train army personnel to operate as prison officers. However, work is underway between the Ministries of Justice and Defence to prepare military staff to support the national offender management service in the event of widespread industrial action. The precise costs of this work have yet to be finalised.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with (1) which private companies his Department has agreements to supply staff to undertake prison officer duties as part of contingency plans for potential industrial action by prison staff; [45057]

(2) how much has been paid to private companies in respect of agreements to supply staff to undertake prison officer duties as part of the contingency plans for potential industrial action by prison staff. [45058]

Mr Blunt: The current contingency arrangements for industrial action by prison staff do not involve extending the existing contractual arrangements with private sector companies.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training is required of those who are nominated to undertake prison officer duties as part of contingency plans for potential industrial action by prison staff. [45059]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans to nominate anyone to operate as prison officers during industrial action. As a result, no such training is required. Instead, the police and military will provide support to the national offender management service during widespread industrial action. Familiarisation training for military staff has been developed which includes an understanding of the prison environment and control and restraint procedures.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to allow the Crown Prosecution Service to appeal to the Crown court against convictions and sentences from magistrates courts. [44938]

Mr Blunt: I have no plans to do so.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders who breached their licence conditions or re-offended whilst on licence were *(a)* returned to prison to serve the full sentence, *(b)* returned to prison to serve a shorter sentence than the remaining period of their licence and *(c)* not returned to prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [44939]

Mr Blunt: Data on sentencing for further offences committed by offenders released on licence is not available. There were 113 offenders recalled between 1 July and 30 September 2010 and not returned to custody by 31 December 2010. This figure was published on 27 January 2011 in Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin (table 1.1). It includes those offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported. Table 1.1 can be found in the House Library and at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/offender-management-stats-quarterly.htm

Additionally, the data can be seen in the table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 5.1: Summary of licence recalls to 30 September 2010 and returns to custody by 31 December 2010, England and Wales

	Number
Offenders recalled 1 January 1984 to 30 June 2010	[1]110,769
Returned to custody by 31 December 2010	[2]109,922
Not returned to custody by 31 December 2010	847
Offenders recalled 1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010	4,163
Returned to custody by 31 December 2010	[2]4,050
Not returned to custody by 31 December 2010	113
Total offenders not returned to custody by 31 December 2010	960

[1] The total number of offenders recalled does not include those recalled during the period 1984 to 1999 as this figure is approximate (see Explanatory notes).

[2] The number returned to custody includes those who are confirmed dead or were deported by the UK Borders Agency.

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues to magistrates and judges on the activation of suspended sentences where an offence is committed inside the operational period but the sentence is handed down after the operational period has ended. [44941]

Mr Blunt: We do not issue guidance to magistrates and judges on sentencing. Under the legislation, where the offender commits a further offence while the suspended sentence order was operational, there is a presumption that the suspended sentence will take effect unless the court finds it would be unjust to do so in all the circumstances.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues to magistrates on the use of their powers under section 116 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 regarding breaches of licence. [44942]

Mr Blunt: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), does not issue guidance to magistrates on how they should use their sentencing powers. The Judicial Studies Board ensures that magistrates are kept up-to-date with relevant legislation and are given training on the sentencing powers that are available to them. It would not be appropriate for the Government to advise courts on how their sentencing powers should be applied.

Section 116 gives courts the power, when sentencing an offender for a further offence committed before the expiry of a previous sentence, to add to whatever sentence it imposes for the new offence a period of return to custody under the original sentence. It is up to the courts to decide in each case whether to invoke the power and if so how long the period of return should be. The power does not relate to breaches of licence for which there are different enforcement and administrative recall provisions.

Section 116 was repealed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and does not, therefore, apply to prisoners released under that Act, The power continues to apply only to prisoners subject to the release provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances concurrent sentences instead of consecutive sentences may be handed down. [44946]

Mr Blunt: In all cases the courts determine which sentence or sentences to impose and how those sentences should be served. The general principle they follow is that offences arising from the same incident will usually lead to concurrent sentences. On the same general principle, offences committed on separate occasions against different victims usually result in consecutive sentences.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants were sentenced to disposals up to and including six months imprisonment following conviction by way of a jury trial at the Crown court on *(a)* offences triable either way sent by magistrates where their sentencing powers were not deemed to be sufficient, *(b)* offences triable either way where the defendant had chosen to elect jury trial and *(c)* offences triable only on indictment in the latest period for which figures are available. [44947]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants who entered a known not guilty plea and were subsequently found guilty at the Crown court, and sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales 2009 (latest available), can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data held centrally do not distinguish between those either-way cases in which the magistrates refused jurisdiction and those where the defendant elected Crown court trial.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of defendants who entered a known not guilty plea and were subsequently found guilty at the Crown court, and sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales 2009[1, 2, 3]

Crown court	*Indictable only*	*Triable either way*	*Total indictable including triable either way*
Total found guilty and sentenced at Crown court	3,033	5,814	8,847
Of which:			
Immediate custody	2,760	3,348	6,108
Of which:			
Immediate custodial sentence less than six months	32	331	363
Immediate custodial sentence greater than six months	2,728	3,017	5,745

Number of defendants who entered a known not guilty plea and were subsequently found guilty at the Crown court, and sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales 2009[1, 2, 3]

Crown court	*Indictable only*	*Triable either way*	*Total indictable including triable either way*
Other sentence	273	2,466	2,739

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Final plea recorded on completion of trial.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential effect on prisoner numbers of giving offenders a 50 per cent credit for pleading guilty at a police station rather than one-third for pleading guilty at the earliest opportunity. [44948]

Mr Blunt: It was estimated in the "Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders" Green Paper that the effect of increasing the maximum discount available for an early guilty plea will be a reduction of 3,400 prison places in 2014-15, relative to the expected growth of the prison population. No separate estimate has been made of the effect of restricting the maximum discount to admissions at the police station, though it would undoubtedly be less. The Green Paper consultation period has recently closed and we will continue to assess the likely impact of the full range of sentencing policy proposals on the prison population.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues to judges and magistrates on suitable disposals on conviction when a community order sentence is appropriate but not possible as the defendant *(a)* has no address or *(b)* is due to leave the country immediately. [44949]

Mr Blunt: All sentences imposed by judges and magistrates must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offending and take account of all the circumstances of the offender and the offence. Guidance on sentencing generally is issued by the independent Sentencing Council for England and Wales to promote greater consistency in sentencing.

In an individual case a court may obtain and consider a pre-sentence report providing information about the offender's circumstances and making a sentencing proposal. This report should include information about the offender's address and any known plans to go abroad. Having no address or spending a short period abroad do not necessarily prevent the court from imposing a community order, where that is the appropriate sentence. For example, an offender can comply with a supervision requirement of a community order if he has no fixed abode. Where an offender intends to go abroad for a short period, the court could delay the start of a community order to accommodate the visit, depending on its purpose.

Where an offender intends to move permanently to Scotland or Northern Ireland, community orders can be transferred under existing legislation.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of offering *(a)* a reduction by one-third in a sentence to an offender who pleads guilty to an offence at a police station and *(b)* no reduction in sentence to an offender who does not plead guilty until the case reaches court. [44951]

Mr Blunt: Restricting the guilty plea discount to suspects who co-operate in interview with the police and then plead guilty in court would risk reducing the incidence of guilty pleas at the first court hearing, as there would be no incentive for a defendant who had failed to make admissions in interview to plead guilty thereafter. This would not be in the interests of the efficiency of the criminal justice system or of victims and witnesses. However, we are considering how to incentivise an early guilty plea over a guilty plea later in the justice process.

Sentencing: Appeals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers the Crown court has when considering an appeal from a magistrates court to vary a sentence by committing it to the Crown court for a more substantial sentence than was originally handed down by the magistrates court. [44940]

Mr Blunt: On an appeal against a sentence imposed in a magistrates court, or following an unsuccessful appeal from a conviction in a magistrates court, the Crown court has power to substitute any sentence the original court could have passed, up to the maximum sentence available to that court, even if that would involve the imposition of a more substantial sentence than the one the magistrates court imposed.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Asylum

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department is providing to *(a)* Rohingya people in Burma, *(b)* Rohingya refugees recently arrived in (i) India and (ii) Indonesia and (c) Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. [44925]

Mr O'Brien: Rohingya people in Burma benefit from Department for International Development (DFID) contributions to multi-donor programmes which operate across Burma in the areas of health, education and rural livelihoods. They also receive aid from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union, to which DFID makes core contributions.

DFID has not provided humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees recently arrived in India or Indonesia.

DFID supports Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh through its core contributions to UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organisation, the UN Population Fund and the European Union.

Business: Ethics

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to co-ordinate and support corporate social responsibility programmes of UK businesses operating in the developing world. [45463]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We have created a new private sector department that will drive increased private sector investment in developing countries while promoting responsible business practices. The Department for International Development (DFID) supports a corporate social responsibility (CSR) agenda which encourages businesses in the UK and internationally to work in a way that aligns positive impacts on poverty with commercial interests.

DFID supports a number of initiatives that promote socially responsible business practices. The Business Call to Action challenges businesses to develop initiatives that are both commercially viable and help to achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs); and the Responsible and Accountable Garment Sector Challenge Fund and the Food Retail Challenge Fund demonstrate how businesses can generate additional benefits for poor people in developing countries. DFID is also supporting responsible business standards through our programme partnership arrangements with the Fairtrade Foundation and the Ethical Trading Initiative.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45035]

Mr O'Brien: Information is only available from 1 January 2011, when our new contracted caterers, Mitie facilities management, took over responsibility for our two staff restaurants in the Department's UK offices. Since this time, no seafood was procured which was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid. 81% of the seafood served complied with the relevant sustainability standards.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the White Paper on trade and investment for growth for the purposes of ensuring that the Export Credits Guarantee Department supports international development aims. [45053]

Mr O'Brien: Drafting of the White Paper on Trade and Investment for Growth was led by the Department for International Development (DFID) and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) joint trade policy unit. The Secretary of State for International Development and the Business Secretary, as well as other DFID and BIS Ministers, had many discussions on the range of issues contained within the White Paper.

The Exports Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) pilot schemes announced in the White Paper largely focus on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK. DFID will continue to fully engage with ECGD by providing case-by-case assessments of these and ongoing ECGD transactions where they relate to the poorest countries. This practice is in line with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines and ensures that ECGD-backed lending supports the financial future and long-term prospects of developing countries.

Nigeria: Corruption

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to Nigeria for the purposes of tackling corruption. [45141]

Mr O'Brien: Through the security, justice and growth programme, the Department for International Development's support to anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria totalled £500,000 between 2006 and 2010. This support was complemented by support to public financial management as well as strong anti-corruption measures within all our other programmes.

The new Justice for All programme started in November 2010. It will increase support to a range of anti-corruption agencies and civil society in Nigeria. The main aim is to build on the successes achieved on anti-money laundering as well as improving the success rate of the judiciary in dealing with corruption cases.

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in each year since 2005. [45142]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £250,000 to support the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) between 2006 and 2010. A breakdown of support in each calendar is as follows.

Calendar year	*Amount (£)*
2006	40,000
2007	100,000
2008	60,000
2009	45,000
2010	5,000

This support was part of the security, justice and growth programme, managed by the British Council. No funds were given directly to EFCC. The support focused on two areas: setting up and running a training course for corruption investigators and strengthening the work of the Financial Intelligence Unit.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Relocation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to relocate *(a)* staff and *(b)* offices of his Department to Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [43467]

Mr Maude: The current plans for the Estate Rationalisation of the Cabinet Office estate do not include the relocation of staff or offices to Brighton.

Census

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he has taken to facilitate meetings between the Office for National Statistics and hon. Members to discuss potential issues which may arise during the conduct of the 2011 Census. [44201]

Mr Maude: The Office for National Statistics is responsible for carrying out the 2011 census in England and Wales on 27 March 2011. The National Statistician has already written to all MPs on the census, providing them with key information and seeking their full support to ensure a strong response from the public.

Mr Knight: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to cancel or postpone the 2011 census. [44252]

Mr Maude: This Government have concluded that it is essential that the 2011 census goes ahead on 27 March 2011 to meet UK and international data requirements.

Departmental Billing

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in January and February 2011. [45065]

Mr Maude: The number of compliant invoice payments made to suppliers by the Department for January and February 2011 are as follows:

	Proportion of invoices paid in percentage terms
Paid within 10 days	
January 2011	88
February 2011	92

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when he expects his Department to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production; [43326]

(2) when he expects the Prime Minister's Office to meet the Government's commitment to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production. [43313]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The vast majority of food procured for catering and hospitality purposes across the Cabinet Office's central London estate is provided by our facilities management providers (FMPs). All meat purchased by our FMPs meat suppliers are in line with RSPCA Freedom Food standards, Assured Food Standards and Quality Pork Standard.

The Cabinet Office actively encourages its FMPs to implement the public sector food procurement initiative wherever practical and viable. They are also obliged to take account of and support the Government's sustainable food policies and, where possible, to source food that meets British or equivalent standards of production.

Departmental Leaseback Arrangements

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assets his Department has sold and leased back over the last 12 months; what the sale price was of each asset so sold; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of leasing back each such asset over the period of the lease. [45064]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not sold and leased back any assets over the last 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Natascha Engel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff of his Office will be working on *(a)* the introduction of a public reading stage for Bills and *(b)* the introduction of a public reading day within a Bill's Committee stage. [41656]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 740W, by the Leader of the House of Commons.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff have left his Department's employ since May 2010. [42309]

Mr Maude: The number of actual and full-time equivalent staff who have left the Cabinet Office between 1 May 2010 and 31 January 2011 is as follows:

Headcount: 264

Full-time equivalent: 255.47

Of the 264 who left the Department 69, (26%) were staff returning to their parent organisation at the end of a period of loan or secondment, 22 (8%) were staff moving to another Department as a result of machinery of government changes and 26 (10%) were staff who have transferred to another Department under a loan agreement.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [42390]

Mr Maude: The number of actual and full-time equivalent civil servants employed by the Cabinet Office at the latest date available, 30 September 2010, is published by the Office for National Statistics at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

Headcount and full-time equivalent numbers at that date were:

Headcount: 1,670

Full-time equivalent: 1,620.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* actual and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were employed by his Department in May 2010. [42406]

Mr Maude: The number of actual and full-time equivalent civil servants employed by the Cabinet Office at 31 May 2010 is as follows:

Headcount: 1,344

Full-time equivalent: 1,304.95.

Departmental Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will take steps to ensure that his published departmental organisational chart includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum in his Department and in the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which he is responsible; [43546]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the published organisational chart for the Prime Minister's Office includes the names and responsibilities of all staff paid over £58,200 per annum. [43526]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

The Government have for the first time published organisational charts which disclose the salary of all directors and above, including for the Prime Minister's Office. The level of salary disclosure in the organisational structure charts already helps enable the public to hold Departments to account for their use of public funds.

There are no current plans to extend the scope of salary disclosure when structure charts are updated.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* outsourcing function of (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) agency, (B) non-departmental public body and (C) non-ministerial department for which he is responsible in the last financial year for which figures are available. [43949]

Mr Maude: The costs are as follows. In all cases the outsourcing function is covered by the procurement function; not as a discrete function.

Year ended 31 March 2010

	Organisation	*£000*
(i)	Cabinet Office	951
(ii) A	Buying Solutions	66
(ii) B	Capacity Builders (UK) Limited	67
	Commission for the Compact Limited	40
(ii) C	Central Office of Information	336
	Charity Commission	140
	National School of Government	47

EU Budget

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments account for the difference between the UK's net contribution to the EU budget in 2009 and the UK's current account balance with EU institutions in 2009. [43943]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated March 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question to asking what payments account for the difference between the UK's net contribution to the EU budget in 2009 and the UK's Current Account balance with EU institutions. (43943)

Annual data for 2009 on the UK's transactions with the EU, including the UK's current account balance with EU institutions, are published in the UK Balance of Payments (Pink Book) 2010:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=1140

The data published in the Pink Book are consistent with the concepts and definitions in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payment's Manual version 5 (BPM5) which is the internationally agreed framework for the compilation and presentation of Balance of Payments statistics. The UK's current account transactions with EU institutions in 2009 are published in Pink Book 2010, table 5.1, pp 78-80, and are largely based on HM Treasury data on UK transactions with the EU, as published in the White Paper (table 3.1, p21).

Some of the HM Treasury data are incorporated directly into the Pink Book, for example, figures for abatement receipts and VAT based contributions. However, some of the HM Treasury data need to be modified prior to incorporation, for reasons such as to bring the figures onto an accruals basis and to present them on a calendar year, rather than a financial year basis. Additionally, some of the HM Treasury data feed into the UK's capital account, rather than the current account, for example, receipts from the Agricultural Fund for Regional Development and European Regional Development Fund. These are shown in the Pink Book 2010, table 6.1, p. 85. Total official transactions between the UK and institutions of the EU (including current and capital account transactions) are published in the Pink Book 2010, table 9.9, p.161.

Government Departments: Construction

Naomi Long: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Stirling of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 738W, on Government Departments: construction, what progress the Office of Government Commerce has made in its review of common minimum standards for construction. [45649]

Mr Maude: The update of the content of the common minimum standards is now under way. It is planned to be complete this summer. This will enable the new CMS to reflect fully the Government's wider strategies for procurement, construction, the environment and health and safety. Once ready, the revised CMS will replace the existing version on the Department's website.

Government Departments: Travel

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on his Department's plans to implement new standard guidance on Government travel policies; and when he expects to issue this new guidance. [43086]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, this Government have saved £50 million by avoiding travel and a further £50 million through reducing the cost of travel (use of advance tickets, reduction in first class travel).

To ensure that the reduction on travel spend is sustainable, the efficiency and reform group within the Cabinet Office, is in the process of finalising guidance on travel policy principles for Government Departments to adopt. The guidance has been prepared in consultation with Departments and key suppliers to Government. The plan is to publish the guidance in the first quarter of the new financial year to support the new travel spending controls.

Furthermore, work is under way to develop a centralised supply strategy to enable central Government to purchase travel services, including rail travel and hotel accommodation, at the best prices. The strategy will support the travel policy to ensure that Government Departments keep travel expenditure to a minimum. The use of online booking systems is a key element of this strategy as they provide the best access to advance, and therefore cheaper, fares and rates.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the extent of work-related travel undertaken by civil servants between *(a)* Manchester and Leeds, *(b)* Liverpool and Leeds and *(c)* Liverpool and Manchester in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [43090]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not have offices in Leeds, Liverpool or Manchester, and the level of work-related travel between these cities is negligible.

Buying Solutions, an executive agency of the efficiency and reform group in the Cabinet Office, has an office in Liverpool. The level of work-related travel to Manchester or Leeds is negligible.

Government Efficiency Review

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the efficiency review led by Sir Philip Green. [43087]

Mr Maude: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 27 January 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA196. Sir Philip's recommendations have been incorporated into ongoing programmes within the efficiency and reform group.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to implement the recommendation of the efficiency review by Sir Philip Green on the use of communications-based alternatives to travel such as video conferencing by civil servants. [43088]

Mr Maude: The controls this Government have put in place to manage down demand in travel has already saved £50 million by avoiding travel and a further £50 million through reducing the cost of travel (use of advance tickets, reduction in first class travel). Through new travel policies, that are currently being developed, Departments will be required to address the need for travel by considering firstly teleconferencing or then videoconferencing, prior to undertaking any journey.

Meetings: Public Expenditure

Bob Stewart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse has been of holding meetings of the Cabinet outside of London in respect of each such meeting held since May 2010. [45399]

Mr Maude: Two Cabinet Office meetings outside London have been held since May 2010:

1. In Bradford on 29 June 2010 at a total cost of £3,029 (excluding VAT)

2. In Derby on 7 March 2011. The full costs of this event are not yet known but are expected to be similar or lower to those of the Bradford event.

Social Conditions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times richer the richest 20% are than the poorest 20% in each year of the last 10 years. [44207]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the ratio of the share of income of the top and bottom 20% of the income distribution are available from the Households Below Average Income report published annually.

Table 1: Ratio of top quintile (richest 20%) income share to bottom quintile (poorest 20%) share, 1998-99 to 2008-09

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1998-99[1]	5.7	7.6
1999-2000[1]	5.7	7.6
2000-01[1]	5.9	7.9
2001-02[1]	5.7	7.5
2002-03[2]	5.6	7.3
2003-04[2]	5.6	7.4
2004-05[2]	5.5	7.3
2005-06[2]	5.7	7.8
2006-07[2]	5.9	8.1
2007-08[2]	6.1	8.7

Table 1: Ratio of top quintile (richest 20%) income share to bottom quintile (poorest 20%) share, 1998-99 to 2008-09

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
2008-09²	6.0	9.0

¹ GB.
² UK.

Notes: 1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years.
4. Disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax / domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
5. Figures are for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are for Great Britain only.
6. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
7. These statistics are publicly available in the Households Below Average Income Report, Table 2.2ts page 25-26, on the DWP website: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai_2009/index.php?page=contents

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Finance

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding from the public purse has been provided to biomass projects since the introduction of the renewables obligation. [45493]

Gregory Barker: DECC holds funding information only for those schemes that transferred to the Department on its formation in 2008 or were later set up by DECC. The following table gives the expenditure under the renewables obligation for dedicated electricity generation and the electricity output of combined heat and power (CHP) plants. For the grant schemes, funding was given to CHP plants as a whole, rather than to the separate electricity and heat outputs.

Funding paid to biomass electricity and combined heat and power projects

									£ million
Type of funding	*Feedstock/Technology*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Renewables Obligation	Biomass	18.2	24.7	26.1	29.0	34.7	42.8	57.8	105.1
	Co-firing biomass/ energy crops	12.9	24.3	66.4	111.3	64.1	60.7	80.1	30.1
	Landfill gas	81.5	96.2	114.8	130.2	141.6	155.8	167.6	179.8
	Sewage gas	5.3	5.9	7.8	10.4	11.2	12.0	14.7	17.0
	Other¹	0.005	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	7.7
Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme	Biomass electricity	0	0	0	0	0.02	3.9	1.2	0
	Biomass CHP	0	0	1.5	0.2	0	0.2	1.6	0
Support for anaerobic digestion demonstration plants	Waste anaerobic digestion (CHP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0

¹ "Other" covers a range of technologies such as anaerobic digestion, gasification and pyrolysis, using biomass and waste.

Biofuels: Wood

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the contribution to the Government's renewables target of burning wood for biomass. [45421]

Gregory Barker: Our analysis suggests that biomass heat and electricity could provide about 4.5% of overall energy demand by 2020. This would not all be met by burning wood—other biomass feedstocks include a broad range of wastes (eg food and municipal waste, landfill and sewage gas), residues such as straw, perennial energy crops such as miscanthus, and second generation technologies that do not require combustion. We do not have specific expectations for each particular biomass feedstock type but expect that burning wood from imported and domestic sources, preferably waste wood, will make a significant contribution to biomass heat and electricity generation in the UK by 2020.

We are introducing sustainability criteria for the use of imported and domestic biomass to generate electricity under the renewables obligation from April this year. These criteria require a minimum greenhouse gas emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel and include restrictions on the use of materials from land that is important on carbon or biodiversity grounds. We intend to do the same next year for heat generation under the renewable heat incentive.

Departmental Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the proportion of the seafood procured for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible that (i) was on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and (ii) complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011 to date. [45031]

Gregory Barker: DECC's main Department receives its catering services through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). No such estimate of the proportion of seafood procured has been made. However, DEFRA's new catering contract, which DECC currently intends to utilise, will commence in April and stipulates that the contractor shall ensure that the fish is supplied from sustainable sources and in compliance with the Government buying standard for food and catering when established and as amended from time to time.

DECC does not hold information centrally on its non-departmental public bodies procurement of fish. However, the NDPBs' which can readily provide this information, and have catering contracts, have not procured any fish on the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to avoid and have complied with sustainability standards indicated by inclusion in either the Marine Conservation Society's list of fish to eat or by the list of fish species certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* policy advisers work for (i) him and (ii) Ministers in his Department; and what the salary of each is. [45671]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has two special advisers working for him. They are paid in accordance with the special advisers pay bands which can be viewed at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/special-adviser-paybands

and where the salary is more than £58,200 the salary details can be viewed at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/special-advisers

There are no policy advisers working in ministerial offices.

Departmental Postal Services

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on motorcycle or bicycle couriers since his appointment. [45530]

Gregory Barker: Since the beginning of May 2010 until February of 2011 the Department of Energy and Climate Change spent £4,166.73 on courier services. It is not possible to identify motorcycle or bicycle courier services from those delivered by other modes of transport without incurring the disproportionate cost of locating and scrutinising individual invoices.

Departmental Press

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings each of his special advisers has had with each member of the Parliamentary Lobby since their appointment. [45531]

Gregory Barker: Special advisers' contact with the media is carried out in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* car, *(b)* taxi, *(c)* rail, *(d)* aeroplane, *(e)* helicopter, *(f)* ferry and *(g)* minibus or coach travel since his appointment. [45538]

Gregory Barker: Since the beginning of May 2010 until February 2011 the Department of Energy and Climate Change has incurred the following travel costs:

(a) car hire (including any mileage): £155,889;

(b) taxi hire: £50,205;

(c) rail: £322,399;

(d) air: £619,672.

We have no record of any helicopter or ferry travel. Some minibus or coach travel may be included in the total for taxi travel but is not recorded separately. To provide this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Energy: Housing

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for the improvement of the energy efficiency of privately-owned housing in bands F and G; and if he will make a statement. [45648]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal has the potential to improve the energy efficiency of properties across all housing tenures. In particular, we envisage the Green Deal will benefit lower band housing, as these properties have the biggest gains to make through installation of basic energy efficiency measures.

There are no current plans to specifically target owner-occupied properties in bands F and G. However, if we do not see progress in the private rented sector under the Green Deal, we intend to use powers in the Energy Bill to require improvements in the worst performing rental properties.

Energy: Listed Buildings

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has plans to improve the energy efficiency of listed buildings. [45609]

Gregory Barker: Improving the energy efficiency of listed buildings will be more challenging within the constraints imposed by listing. However, the Green Deal will support a whole suite of measures, including many that improve energy efficiency without affecting the appearance or fabric of a property.

Green Deal assessments are likely to include behavioural changes that can help reduce energy usage in all buildings, and these can make a significant impact before the need to make any fabric alterations.

Solar Photovoltaic Sector

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of jobs created in the solar photovoltaic sector in *(a)* Brighton and Hove and *(b)* the UK since the date of implementation of the feed-in tariff scheme. [43507]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold estimates on the number of jobs created in the solar photovoltaic (PV) market in Great Britain or the area mentioned. However, the Renewable Energy Association (REA) have provided the following job specific numbers in the solar industry:

(i) Increase from 3,000 in January 2010 to over 10,000 in January 2011;

(ii) Predicted to increase to 17,000 by spring 2011;

(iii) By January 2012, an expected 30,000 will be employed in the solar industry.

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department are participating in volunteering activities as part of his Department's involvement in the big society initiative. [42665]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. and hon. Friends and I are actively involved with numerous charities on a private basis, including those detailed in the list of Ministers' interests recently published by the Cabinet Office.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1076W.

Video-conferencing

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his Department's *(a)* external and *(b)* internal meetings were conducted using teleconferencing technology in the latest period for which figures are available. [45490]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold centrally information on how many meetings, internal or external, that take place, therefore any proportion using teleconferencing technology cannot be calculated. The Department does have video and audio conferencing facilities and makes regular use of them.

Water Supply: Carbon Emissions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* total amount of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK generated through the treatment and pumping of drinking water and waste water; and if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Energy Bill to include measures aimed at increasing water efficiency. [44638]

Gregory Barker: Emissions from the energy use for treatment and pumping of drinking and waste water are not explicitly estimated within the UK greenhouse gas inventory, but these emissions are included in the overall totals. This is compliant with international reporting guidelines.

Using energy consumption data, it has been possible to estimate carbon dioxide emissions from industrial energy consumption from the collection, purification and distribution of water for 2008, and these are estimated to be 3.34 Mt. This is equivalent to 0.6% of total 2008 UK carbon dioxide emissions (excluding land use, land use change and forestry). The derivation of this estimate is shown in the following table:

Carbon dioxide emissions based on industrial energy consumption from collection, purification and distribution of water for 2008

Fuel type	*Quantity (thousand tonnes of oil equivalent)*	*Quantity kWh—gross calorific value*	*CO_2 emission factor (kg/kWh)*	*CO_2 emitted (Mt)*
Fuel oil	6	69,739,297	0.26475	0.02
Gas oil	116	1,350,875,235	0.25214	0.34
Natural gas	27	317,712,134	0.18485	0.06
Electricity	465	5,404,468,387	0.54600	2.93
Total	614	—	—	3.34

Note:
The emission factor for electricity consumed is used.
Source:
Energy Consumption in the UK Industrial tables 2010 update table 4.6a:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/ecuk/ecuk.aspx
2010 Guidelines to DEFRA/DECC's GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting:
http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/economy/business-efficiency/reporting/

Estimates have been provided for 2008 as emission factors for 2009 are not yet available.

Plans in the Energy Bill for a 'Green Deal' represent an opportunity to bring together energy and water saving in the home, as well as community spaces and businesses, with no up-front cost to consumers as they pay the costs back through their energy bill. DEFRA is working with DECC on plans which include hot water efficiency measures in the 'Green Deal', where the energy saved from heating water is reflected in savings on the energy bill.

While water efficiency measures do not appear on the face of the Bill itself, the policy document accompanying the Green Deal does refer to water efficiency:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1010-green-deal-summary-proposals.pdf

Wind Power: Manufacturing Industries

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements will be made for delivery of his Department's programme to support the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing at port sites after the end of the Grant for Business Investment scheme. [44307]

Charles Hendry: Support for the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing at port sites will be available from April 2011 to March 2015 and will be delivered through the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme, a state-aid cleared scheme which will continue to be utilised to assess applications for this funding in England for the full period that the support is available. On

1 February 2011 the Government announced that the GBI scheme is closed for new applications, except for large exceptional projects and applications to DECC for support for major offshore wind manufacturing investments, which will therefore continue to be administered through this scheme.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 1 March 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Feed-in Tariff Review

The following is the answer given by the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Tiverton and Honiton (Neil Parish) during Energy and Climate Change Question Time on 10 February 2011.

Neil Parish: I very much welcome the Minister's comments on anaerobic digestion, because I think we can get a great deal more of it. Can he assure us that feed-in tariffs will be set at a fair rate? As we push up energy prices to the consumer, we push more people into fuel poverty. When he tapers the tariffs, will he ensure that hospitals and schools get a fair crack of the whip?

Gregory Barker: My hon. Friend makes some excellent points. We will endeavour to ensure that we are very fair in the review, and we certainly want to sustain investment in renewables in schools, hospitals and other community projects that fall above the 40 kW review level. We also need to ensure that we get value for money for consumers and that we do not offer what Labour did—an open cheque book approach to the industry.

[Official Report, 10 February 2011, Vol. 523, c. 464.]

Letter of correction from Mr Gregory Barker:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 10 February 2011. The answer made reference to community projects that fall above the 40 kW review level. It should have said above the 50 kW level.

The correct answer should have been:

Gregory Barker: My hon. Friend makes some excellent points. We will endeavour to ensure that we are very fair in the review, and we certainly want to sustain investment in renewables in schools, hospitals and other community projects that fall above the 50 kW review level. We also need to ensure that we get value for money for consumers and that we do not offer what Labour did—an open cheque book approach to the industry.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on calls to *(a)* premium-rate telephone numbers, *(b)* directory enquiry services and *(c)* the speaking clock in the last 36 months for which figures are available. [41008]

[Official Report, 16 February 2011, Vol. 523, c. 831-32W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:

An error has been identified in the copy of the Audit Commission letter that was provided with the written answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) on 16 February 2011. In the table, the figures given for *(b)* directory inquiry services and *(c)* the speaking clock were transposed.

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 16 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission routinely bars premium rate calls for fixed and mobile phones where technically possible. Some premium rate calls are required for targeted business purposes, the main one being for postal franking machines (£162 over the three years). The speaking clock is sometimes used to test lines externally where a guaranteed reply is needed.

For our main offices, all directory enquiry calls are routed to our main provider Cable & Wireless service as this provides the most effective rate. Mobile phone calls to directory enquiries and the speaking clock are barred.

The detail of the spending requested is provided in the table below. However, information for home workers and small office users is excluded, as the detail is not readily accessible from the service supplier for the total period.

Main office phone system and mobile phone contracts

	12 months to 31 January			£
	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*Total*
(a) Premium rate	55	69	46	170
(b) Directory inquiry services	5	1	1	7
(c) Speaking clock	75	44	21	140
Total	135	114	68	317

The correct answer should have been:

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 16 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission routinely bars premium rate calls for fixed and mobile phones where technically possible. Some premium rate calls are required for targeted business purposes, the main one being for postal franking machines (£162 over the three years). The speaking clock is sometimes used to test lines externally where a guaranteed reply is needed.

For our main offices, all directory enquiry calls are routed to our main provider Cable & Wireless service as this provides the most effective rate. Mobile phone calls to directory enquiries and the speaking clock are barred.

The detail of the spending requested is provided in the table below. However, information for home workers and small office users is excluded, as the detail is not readily accessible from the service supplier for the total period.

Main office phone system and mobile phone contracts

	12 months to 31 January			£
	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*Total*
(a) Premium rate	55	69	46	170
(b) Directory inquiry services	75	44	21	140
(c) Speaking clock	5	1	1	7
Total	135	114	68	317

Ministerial Correction

Monday 7 March 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Security

The following is the response given by the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Edinburgh East (Sheila Gilmore) during the debate on the Draft Social Security Benefits Uprating Order 2011 on 17 February 2011.

Sheila Gilmore (Edinburgh East) (Lab): Will the Government give the House a time scale in which it will consider these matters to do with CPI? Obviously, council tax also has to be taken into account.

Steve Webb: I am grateful to the hon. Lady for raising that point. We are, of course, driven by the Office for National Statistics, so we are not cobbling together our own index. It is undertaking careful work over the next two years. We will then look at its findings and consider whether it is appropriate to use a CPIH-type measure. We are governed by the ONS's time scales.

I will comment briefly on benefits for people of working age. Unfortunately, last year the Government got themselves into a bit of a mess over uprating. As I have said, RPI was showing negative inflation, mainly as a result of falling mortgage interest. As a result, benefits such as additional state pensions did not increase at all. They would have done under CPI. Other benefits, mainly the disability and carers' benefits, were the subject of what my notes call a bewildering fudge—I think that roughly sums it up. In the end, disability and carers' benefits last year were increased by 1.5%, but on the proviso that the pre-election—sorry, that word slipped out again—increase in 2010 would be clawed back in 2011. In other words, that would have happened this year in this order. *[Interruption.]* The Secretary of State says that we had to decide whether to pick up the ticking time bomb of that 1.5% clawback as well.

Members will be pleased to know that the 2011 uprating order before the House today contains no such sleight of hand. It is based on the straightforward proposition that, aside from increases in the basic pension and pension credit that have already been explained, the other mainstream social security benefits and statutory payments will increase by 3.1%, in line with the annual growth in RPI. There will be no attempt to recoup the value of the 1.5% fudge that we inherited from the previous Government.

[Official Report, 17 February 2011, Vol. 523, c. 1178.]

Letter of correction from Mr Steve Webb:

An error has been identified in the answer given on 17 February 2011. In the third paragraph of my response I meant to say CPI not RPI.

The correct answer should have been:

Steve Webb: I am grateful to the hon. Lady for raising that point. We are, of course, driven by the Office for National Statistics, so we are not cobbling together our own index. It is undertaking careful work over the next two years. We will then look at its findings and consider whether it is appropriate to use a CPIH-type measure. We are governed by the ONS's time scales.

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Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 8 March 2011

JUSTICE

Television: Licensing

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Leeds North West constituency have been prosecuted for not having a television licence in the last 12 months. [16068]

[Official Report, 11 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 153W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Crispin Blunt:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Leeds North West (Greg Mulholland) on 11 October 2010. The answer overstated by 80 the number of persons proceeded against for television licence evasion in the West Yorkshire police force area for 2008.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003, in the West Yorkshire police force area for 2008 (latest available), was 6,652. Figures are not available at constituency level so police force area level data have been provided in lieu.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010. The publication date for 2010 figures has not been finalised but will be announced on the UK National Statistics release calendar.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003, in the West Yorkshire police force area for 2008 (latest available), was 6,572, Figures are not available at constituency level so police force area level data have been provided in lieu.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010. The publication date for 2010 figures has not been finalised but will be announced on the UK National Statistics release calendar.